



Stitching  
their culture

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inspire new

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## Big dreams in new Art Plaza



After years in development, 22 International Art Plaza is finally open. The plaza is intended to foster a prosperous art zone within its cutting edge architecture. From the central business district it will connect creation, life and industry. See more on Page 3.

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# Detainees get their rights spelled out in new draft

By Han Manman

Detainees awaiting trial may no longer be forced into labor if a new draft regulation submitted Tuesday is passed.

The draft, available on the website of the information office of the State Council, is open for public comment through the end of this month.

According to the draft, detainees refers only to those people held by police, state security agencies, courts and entry and exit authorities. Police are allowed to detain minor offenders for a maximum of 15 days without being arraigned.

The current law governing detention houses was passed in 1990. The new draft by the Ministry of Public Security and reviewed by the legal office of the cabinet says that detainees are to be read their rights on arrival at a detention center.

Anyone who believes themselves to have been mistakenly jailed can apply for a review. Those wrongly detained would be immediately released and the record of their detention wiped. The draft also prohibits detention centers from billing detainees or forcing them to work.

Detained women are to be handled only by policewomen,

according to the draft.

Detainees are also entitled to "adequate food," especially those on restricted diets, and proper medical treatment as well as two hours a day for outdoor exercises.

They must also have the right to communication during detention and be allowed to pass letters free of inspection and seizure. They must be allowed to leave when ill, to see their spouses during childbirth and to attend family funerals, the draft said.

The country's detention houses, which fall under the management of local police

departments, have been scrutinized following several high-profile deaths this year.

Early this year, 24-year-old Li Qiaoming died in a detention center in Yunnan Province. Local authorities initially ruled out foul play, blaming his death on an accident during a game of hide and seek. Only public uproar prompted the Supreme People's Procuratorate to intervene and uncover the truth.

Legal experts and lawyers say that the draft, after it takes effect, may help improve human rights in detention centers.

"The draft regulation is an attempt to improve manage-

ment," said You Wei, a vice professor at East China University of Political Science and Law.

He said improving detention facilities and prisons has been a top concern for the legal industry. Deaths like Li's have pushed the government to pay more attention to detainees and their rights.

"The new regulation is a step in the right direction. If it is implemented in full, it would say a lot about the country's human rights awareness," You said.

However, You said some items in the draft require elaboration to ensure detention facility workers obey the law.

## Bogus A/H1N1 mask maker busted



Experts say all hygienic masks can repel flu and bacteria.

CFP Photo

By Han Manman

Local drugstores are busy answering phone orders for an "anti-A/H1N1 mask" since a recent media report came out about a Tianjin company that successfully produced a "magic mask" to prevent the disease.

Officials shut down the company Wednesday for operating without a license and selling masks that had been neither tested nor proven.

The mask, produced by Mingda Technology in Tianjin, was reported to filter out 92 percent of the free A/H1N1 flu virus using anti-microbial and far-infrared technology. It also said the mask could promote circulation in the face and improve the skin, and that its effectiveness did not deteriorate with washing.

The Ministry of Health responded Tuesday that the mask's claims were impossible.

Beijing pharmacies have stopped stocking the masks. Zhang Wei, a salesman from Furuilongda

drugstore, said they had been planning to order masks to fill customer requests, but have now given up the plan.

"All hygienic masks prevent flu and bacteria," said Zhou Rongbin, director of emergency at the Military General Hospital of Beijing PLA.

"The flu spreads mostly via human saliva, so a standard medical mask will meet the need for prevention," Zhou said, adding that healthy people no need to wear a mask during normal activities in public places. Mask should be used in contact with A/H1N1-infected persons or in crowded and poorly ventilated places.

Peak flu season has begun, and will continue until mid-March, ministry experts warned.

The fight against the deadly A/H1N1 virus is intensifying. As of Wednesday afternoon, 36 people on the mainland have died of the flu out of 62,800 confirmed

cases, according to the Ministry of Health.

The Chinese mainland reported 3,393 confirmed A/H1N1 flu cases in the 48 hours ending at 3 pm yesterday, the ministry said.

The country raised the nationwide alert and began to take preventive actions to curb the epidemic several months ago, but its recently promoted vaccination program has returned attention to the illness.

From November 16 to December 13, all Beijing residents between the ages of three and 60 are eligible for free vaccinations at one of the 402 stations across the city.

The elderly were excluded because the A/H1N1 vaccine is unsafe for people over 60, the notice said.

The vaccination program aims to cover 65 million people on the mainland by the year's end. Almost 11 million received shots as of Wednesday, according to the Ministry of Health.

## Gov cracks down on unlicensed doctors

The Ministry of Health will step up efforts to improve the management of the doctors in the country to safeguard people's health.

"The management of doctors is of great importance to the quality and safety of medical service as well as to public health and safety," ministry spokesman Mao Qun said Tuesday.

The government passed a law on licensing doctors in 1998 and the health ministry wrote the examinations the next year. Since then, the ministry has carried out 11 national examinations.

Mao said the ministry would step up its efforts to implement the law and do a better job in regulating both exams and registration of doctors. It would also inspect each doctor's practice and crack down on all who practice medicine illegally.

Xiong Zhuowei, a professor at Beijing University, died at age 49 of pulmonary failure after undergoing spinal surgery at a hospital affiliated with the university on January 31, 2006.

Her husband, Wang Jian-

guo, a professor of economics at Beijing University, filed a lawsuit against the hospital claiming some staff involved in the surgery were still students and not allowed to practice medicine.

Beijing University First Hospital denied the charge.

The Beijing No. 1 Intermediate People's Court issued a ruling in July that the hospital must pay Xiong's family 700,000 yuan in damages.

But Wang appealed to the Beijing Higher People's Court, demanding the medical treatment be recognized as "illegal."

The incident attracted great attention from both the public and medical workers, though each group had a different focus, Mao said.

"Students of medical school are future doctors and they are required to be interns during the last phase of their studies," Mao said.

"We should understand and support the work done by these medical students, since they are our future doctors," he said.

(Xinhua)



Wang Jianguo insists that intern surgeons botched his wife's spinal procedure.

CFP Photo



# Artists find new home at 22 Art Plaza

By Zhang Dongya

It is a commercial walking street, but it only sells art.

22 International Art Plaza opened last Sunday after years spent in preparation. With galleries, studios, auction houses and the offices of cultural organizations, it is intended to be an international art block in the heart of the central business district (CBD).

Located off East Third Ring Road, it is part of a commercial circle that includes SOHO Modern City and the China World Trade Center.

Unlike the decommissioned military factory buildings in 798 Art District, 22 has refined architecture. It was so named because its architects were attempting a 22nd style of architecture, in addition to the 21 classic styles known well in the country.

On the ground, there are 100 galleries and art and culture communication organizations. Seventeen are open, and the rest are expected to follow by the year's end. The area also includes hotel-style apartments to provide artists with a complete creative environment.

If 798 Art District was a spontaneous response to the demand for art, then 22 International Art Plaza is the market's choice, the curator of Today Art Museum Zhang Zikang said.

"Artists can create works in their studios and display them there, or they can hold their exhibitions at 22's galleries or the Today Art Museum," Gao Yuan, planning manager of 22 International Art Plaza, said. The museum, with four large exhibition buildings, will become the top platform for works.

The streets auction houses also offer a place for upcoming artists to sell their work. Shops in the Plaza sell daily articles based on the artists' designs and ideas.

"We emphasize both art exhibition and sale. We are trying

to provide a complete industry chain," Wang Xiaotong, general manager of the Plaza, said.

The management is cooperating with foreign embassies to also provide an inroad for foreign artists seeking a Chinese audience. The Italian embassy has set up a location in the Plaza to open an exhibition of architecture, and the Ukrainian embassy is planning to show a series of oil paintings.

"China is becoming a new market for overseas artists. They are seeking recognition in the Chinese art circle," Wang said. The growing number of Chinese collectors suggests they might find a market.

Young artists who have just graduated from universities like the Central Academy of Fine Arts will be eligible for free underground studios in the village.

Today Art Museum holds an annual event for young artists in Asia, including graduates from China, Korea and Japan, to give them a chance to show their works and swap ideas.

The Plaza is trying to attract both domestic and overseas investment, and has achieved 70 percent of its goals since May, the general manager Wang said.

22 Art Plaza is expected to become a platform for international galleries. Zhang Baoquan, president of Antaus Group, the investor, said foreign artists have had a hard time finding their Chinese audience. He hopes the Plaza's international environment will give them new opportunities.



22 International Art Plaza



22 Art Plaza aims to out do the famous 798 Art District.

Photos by Zhang Rui

## Hebei donors bleed for Beijing's bank



Volunteers came from Hebei to donate at the Beijing Red Cross Blood Center.

CFP Photo

By Jin Zhu

A group of 76 donors from Langfang, Heibei Province, came to Beijing to donate their blood at the Beijing Red Cross Blood Center Sunday after hear-

ing the capital's blood bank is running dry.

Winter always shows a seasonal dip in blood donations. Few people stop at the donor buses, and fear of the A/H1N1 flu has many

wary of crowded donation sites.

According to statistics from the Beijing Red Cross Blood Center, the city has 1,311 liters of blood in reserve - 41 percent of the norm - as of November 3.

"The (donor) group was quick to contact its members the day it heard about the shortage," Wei Fadong, a volunteer and former policeman, told the Beijing News. Many group members missed the activity because they were ill or had donated blood too recently.

In the year since it was organized, the volunteer group has grown from 60 to nearly 500 members.

"Most are young or middle-aged and come from all walks of life. Some are college students. The daily work is mainly to provide services to blood donors, calling for blood donations from the public and collecting feedback," Wang

Jianhua, director of Langfang Central Blood Station, said.

"Many volunteers have donated several times. Their enthusiasm is so high that we were not surprised they came to donate as a group," he said.

The 58 volunteers who met the requirements donated 21.2 liters of blood.

Dai Suna, deputy director of the Beijing Red Cross Blood Center, said the blood reserve is back up to 1,740 liters, but it has not reached the normal level. "The volunteers in Langfang moved us, and I hope their effort encourages more people to get involved in blood donation," she said.

At present, 170,000 citizens in Beijing have registered as donors at the blood center. When the city's blood reserve become strained, the center sends out text messages to the members of its

pool. Usually 20 to 25 percent of the pool comes in to donate.

Starting November 1, Beijing terminated its compulsory donation system which took effect in 1998 and has started encouraging people ages 18 to 55 to donate voluntarily.

Citizens have access to unlimited free blood for life after donating 1 liter of their own blood.

Dai said the previous law, which enforced a donation quota, did little to guarantee the quality of donated blood.

But the new regulation is not without its disadvantages. By going entirely voluntary, the reserve is now subject to the whims of the weather and other factors.

"They need to do more to attract donors. The blood buses that park on the street also need to be more convenient," she said.



# Minority heritage arts find a market

By Annie Wei

When the quake struck Sichuan last May, the ethnic Qiang people lost their homeland.

Rebuilding has been possible thanks to the One Foundation and some local NGOs, and the Qiang women are keeping their culture alive by embroidering.

For Zhou Yonglian, a 42-year-old Qiang seamstress, her trip to Beijing for the Tangy fashion show was the first time she ever left Songpinggou, her hometown near Wenchuan, Sichuan Province.

The show, last Thursday at Tangy's flagship store located near the trendy Shin Kong Place, was packed with celebrities, models and reporters.

Six pieces of haute couture were auctioned off for 310,000 yuan, all of which went to the Women's Qiang Embroidery Employment Supporting Center of Aba Prefecture, an NGO that helps Qiang women improve their living conditions through embroidery.

## Foundation for aid

Yan Junhui, director of the center, and her husband Gao Tunzi started helping their fellow Sichuaners after the quake.

While distributing 200 tons of medicine, Yan and her friends learned that many of the victims wanted to work while the search for survivors continued.

However, many of the Qiang women were uncomfortable with chengdu and the work Yan helped to arrange in.

For the Qiang, life is in the forest and the mountains. Most live out their lives free of contact with the outside world.

Searching for another way, Yan found a creative and marketable outlet: Qiang embroidery. Prior to the quake, she had been operating a handicrafts business out of Chengdu, the provincial capital.

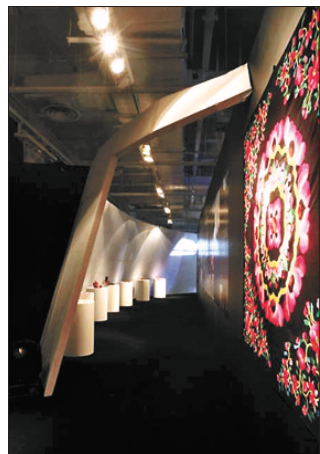
"The quake completely destroyed these people's lives. We were looking for a way to offer them long-term help so they could stand on their own," Yan said.

She and her team studied 16 kinds of Qiang embroidery and trained women to join their production team.

"Although no one knew how far this would go at the beginning, word spread among the Qiang women and many came," Yan said.

Their work is about more than income: for Qiang women, their traditional handicrafts offer comfort after the quake.

It was by chance that Yan met Zhou Weiyang, the executive director of One Foundation. Both were



Qiang women have found a way to profit from their folk art.



The One Foundation started organizing Qiang women to stitch after the quake.



The women stitch in intervals to create beautiful patterns.  
Photos provided by The Women's Qiang Embroidery Employment Supporting Center

searching for a way to help the Qiang carry on after the quake.

And so the center was formed.

The Women's Qiang Embroidery Employment Supporting Center was started as a joint project of the Red Cross Society of China, Jet Li's One Foundation and the Chengdu Gao Village Cultural Institute. It mobilizes women from quake-hit areas to learn Qiang embroidery, become financially independent.

Money from the One Foundation was used to pay the women and purchase raw materials like sewing tools. The center provided the needles and thread and the Qiang women set to work.

The center has 30 staff members in Chengdu, Beijing and Shanghai who research, design, market and promote the women's works. Another 40 live in the minority region to organize the 8,000 seamstresses.

## A demand

The Qiang are not the only minority to profit from their folk arts. There are many similar handicrafts and creative products on the market, most of which end up peddled as trinkets at tourist sites.

The Qiang, however, stand out.

Yan said it is because they are a non-profit group. With free education from the One Foundation, Yan wants it to operate as non-government organization (NGO) with all profits distributed to the seamstresses.

"At first, people bought our products to support the disaster victims. But we are working our way into the market, and good designs are important to customers," Yan said.

To stand out in the market, the center has teamed with institutes of higher education and design firms to invite professional designers to volunteer their ideas

to the Qiang women.

At the center, the women work on an apron stitched with Qiang patterns and silver. While delicate, it is hardly practical. It would be valued by collectors only.

Yan and her design team have developed purse, wallet and car accessories with Qiang patterns. "We designed many coin purses with Qiang patterns for banks. They like it and have become our long-term customers," she said.

Compared to other folk products, Qiang embroidery has done well: it has even attracted cosmetic giants like Pond's to sponsor a fashion show at the Bund, Shanghai, in July. They also sewed logo bags for dairy giant Mengniu.

Jet Li, founder of One Foundation, sent a backpack with Qiang embroidery to Donna Versace, vice president of brand Versace. It is part of a limited edition with only seven pieces.

## Passionate staff

Since Chinese New Year, Yan and the other staff have started working at the center full time.

"At first, I thought some people would only work for a short time. But after a year, everyone is still excited," Yan said.

Yu Qiang, 28, from Ebu County, has gone from seamstress to manager. She works on the production team, organizing other women to get materials, checking their work and distributing pay.

The income of each woman depends on her workload and the complexity of her stitches. Pay ranges from 40 to 100 yuan per day, and most can make 60 yuan per day.

People with good skills can

choose to work on more complicated patterns, and others can choose simple patterns to work on anywhere convenient.

The center has run well excluding a few stumbling points. Yan said they initially ignored how most seamstresses lived in the forests and mountains. When they received a big order, they underestimated the time needed to distribute and collect the work.

Orders were halted through July and August because of the backlog.

Yan said Qiang embroidery has a future as both a brand and a local NGO.

The One Foundation will continue to provide yearly funding to the group until it can sustain itself. All further profits will be donated to charity.

## Qiang Embroidery

It is a handicraft done by rural Qiang women working in intervals. It is characterized by unique formations, patterns and colors and it is profoundly connected to the ethnic group both historically and culturally.

The Qiang have long been famous for their skill in skipping embroidery, and almost every woman is an expert. In their villages, a girl first learns shear patterns, then learns to cut cloth and finally to embroider it using skipping techniques.

The strict training regimen begins from early childhood.



# Will absence make the heart grow fonder?

## Separating two pandas will hopefully create a third

Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan, two giant pandas who live at the Tapei Zoo, no longer seem to be on the same page in the bedroom.

The statement came from Zhang Hemin, an expert who inspected the animals, when asked about the chances of the two having babies.

"They may have more interest toward each other after a brief separation," said Zhang, a researcher at the Wolong Natural Reserve in Sichuan Province where the pandas originate.

He said the environment at the zoo approximates the pandas' natural habitat and would not hamper their breeding, but the animals may have become too used to each others' presence.

To prepare the male, Tuan Tuan, for the vital mating act, Zhang also suggested that zookeepers set up additional wooden racks which he can climb to strengthen his hind legs. Zoo-bound pandas need exercise to help them procreate.

If all works, the event would come during the pandas' brief mating season in February.

Pandas however tend to lose their interest in mating once in captivity. This has led some scientists to try extreme methods such as showing pandas videos of other pandas mating and giving male pandas Viagra. To date, the primary reproduction method has been artificial insemination.

The mainland presented Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan, which together mean "reunion," to Taiwan last December amid warming ties between the two sides.

The animals have become popular in Taiwan and many locals wish to see them produce a baby in their new home.

(Agencies)

Dry spells happen to the best of us.

But the lack of panda action at the Taipei Zoo is particularly distressing because it is almost mating season and the pressure is on for its two giant pandas to produce cubs.

Zookeepers have sought advice from therapists to get Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan back in the mood for love. The findings: the couple may be sick of each other. The prescription: spend some time apart to evaluate the relationship, then get back together for mating season.



Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan are popular in Taiwan and locals wish to see them produce a cub soon.

CFP Photo

## Background

### Reproduction, a mission impossible for pandas

It is difficult for pandas to reproduce, much like finding a generous man, said Zhang Zhihe, director of the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding.

For one, pandas reproduce very slowly, and infant mortality is very high, she said. For another, the animals grow slowly and may not reach sexual maturity until they are five to seven years old.

Zhang said the mating season usually takes place from mid-March to mid-May, during

which, two to five males compete for one female.

Breeders, however, experience extreme difficulty in inducing captive pandas to mate, which threatens their already diminished population. This problem may stem from the captive bears' lack of sexual experience, Zhang said.

In an attempt to remedy this, some zookeepers in China have shown their subjects panda porn.

In some cases, the pandas are sufficiently stimulated to engage in reproductive activity. "But, it is not likely that the animals actually learn mating behaviors from the video; rather, it's believed that hearing the associated sounds has a stimulating effect on the bears exposed to it," Zhang said.

Where panda porn failed to spark amour, breeders turned to artificial insemination – a last ditch effort to get pandas preg-

nant, Zhang said.

Pandas are threatened by a low reproductive rate. Females in the wild normally have a cub once every two to three years, and the fertility of captive giant pandas is even lower, experts say.

Only about 1,600 pandas live in the wild, mostly in Sichuan Province. An additional 120 are in Chinese breeding facilities and zoos, and about 20 live in zoos outside China.

(By Huang Daohen)



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# Laureates speak on future economy

By Huang Daohen/Zhang Dongya

Is the US dollar nearing its death as an international currency? How should the Chinese government adjust its currency to survive the financial crisis? And how can we ensure the next crisis is less serious?

Four Nobel laureates in economics tackled the questions of how to rebuild world finances and revive the economy at the Nobel Laureates Beijing Forums on Tuesday in the Great Hall of the People.

## Robert Mundell: special drawing for the yuan

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) should include the yuan in its Special Drawing Rights (SDR) basket of currencies by 2011, Robert Mundell, father of the euro, said Tuesday.

Mundell, who was awarded the Nobel prize in economics in 1999, said volatile exchange rates helped cause the global financial crisis last September.

"It's time for a change. The yuan is now the third most important currency in the world, arguably more important than the Japanese yen," Mundell said.

The IMF created the SDR as

an international reserve asset in 1969 to supplement its member countries' official reserves. It is currently based on four major currencies: the dollar makes up 44 percent, the euro 34 percent, the Japanese yen 11 percent and the pound sterling 11 percent.

The basket is adjusted every five years with the next adjustment in 2011.

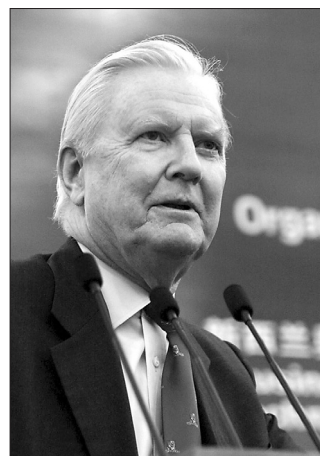
The professor suggested slashing the US dollar's share to 40 percent while keeping the euro at 34 percent. The Japanese yen would be reduced to 10 percent, and the pound cut to 8 percent. "The yuan

would take up the remaining 8 percent," he said.

The yuan's convertibility is not an important issue as long as the Chinese currency remains loosely aligned to the US dollar, he said.

When asked what it was like to be a Nobel Prize winner, he said, "18 hours' work every day, busy your whole life."

But winning a Nobel Prize is not all hard work and perspiration. "You cannot win a Nobel Prize just by keeping your nose to the grindstone. You have to be really interested in the work and be creative," he said.



## James Mirrlees: too little too late

This recession has largely been caused by bad macroeconomic policy, James A. Mirrlees, winner of the 1996 Nobel Prize in economics and a professor at Oxford University, said at the forum.

He said it is the natural result of several conditions, including a bursting of the assets bubble, wild lending by banks and a government that only gave too little too late.

"In developed economies, there are large public deficits much larger than the stimulus packages," Mirrlees said.

Governments need to reform to follow a more flexible macroeconomic policy.

He also said it was necessary to restrict the kinds of financial assets that can be traded.

Banks should return to traditional business like loans and deposits instead of investment, he said. Since most banks in China still engage primarily in loans and deposits, the country was less affected by the crisis.

Mirrlees doubted whether world governments have the power

and competence to turn things around. "If they had done enough, the problem would already have disappeared," he said.

He said the most important thing is to rebuild people's confidence. "The crisis is mainly a credit crisis, because people and firms cannot borrow what they want."

Though China has escaped relatively unscathed, Mirrlees cautioned that people should be careful when investing and attentive to the financial risks.

## Edmund Phelps: flexible currency is good

The world economy may already be recovering, but the question is how much, Edmund Phelps, winner of the 2006 Nobel Prize in economics and a professor at Columbia University, said.

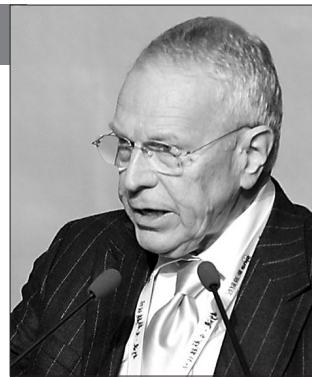
Phelps has studied unemployment in the US extensively, and doubts the country can re-stabilize at a normal 5.5 percent unemployment. His projections for the new average ventures is as

high as 7 percent.

Referring to international reform in the financial area, Phelps spoke highly of Chinese trade surpluses. "They help reduce the world level of interest rates, or put another way, they help increase world supply, and that contributes to the level of investment in the rest of the world, and the level of prosperity and innovation," he said.

He also praised the fixed exchange rate, which he said served the country very well over the years.

"I think the world can appreciate China's flexibility in allowing a considerable appreciation of the yuan against the US dollar a few years ago. It is possible that with great cooperation, we could see further appreciation of the yuan," Phelps said.



CFP Photos

## Daniel McFadden: reliable social welfare

The government should work faster to improve its system of social welfare and public services if it wants to raise living conditions and revitalize the economy, Daniel McFadden, the Nobel economics laureate in 2000, said.

McFadden, who advised the US in designing its federal health insurance scheme, said it would help China's economic structure if the government resolves its problems in health care, educa-

tion and pensions.

"Compared to investment and exports, consumption lags in driving the Chinese economy," he said. "A lot of that has to do with the public welfare system. When people feel insecure, they don't consume."

The government should play a leading role in building such a system in collaboration with incentives like market promotions, he said.

McFadden said he heard of

the city's traffic control policy that restricts the number of cars depending on their license plate numbers and deemed it a success, but said it will not solve the fundamental problem in the long term. "Increasing the parking fee within CBD and taxing high-emission vehicles would have achieved the same thing," he said.

McFadden pointed to Hong Kong as a successful example of urban transport management.

## Crisis can't hold back overseas M&As

By Han Manman

More domestic companies are merging with or acquiring overseas firms despite the financial crisis, and that trend is expected to continue into the next year, Deloitte, an international accounting and consulting firm, reported.

The report said the value of quarterly merger and acquisition (M&A) deals expanded from \$1.3 billion (8.9 billion yuan) in the first quarter to \$8.9 billion in the third quarter.

According to the report, there were 61 outbound acquisitions with an aggregate value of \$21.2 billion during the first three quarters.

"On the back of the government stimulus package, the Chinese economy has remained somewhat insulated from the fallout from the financial crisis," said Lawrence Chia, head of Deloitte China M&A Services. That insulation has helped make the mergers and acquisitions explosion possible.

"The desire of Chinese companies to expand through acquisitions and support from the Chinese government are also driving outbound cross-border deals," he said.

Transactions in the energy, mining and utilities sector continue to dominate purchases abroad. Since the beginning of 2003, acquisitions in this sector have accounted for 29 percent of the total outbound flow by volume and 65 percent of the total deals, the report said.

Karl Baker, mining sector M&A partner for Deloitte China, said he was confident the government will hit its 8 percent GDP growth target for this year. Despite the crisis, the demand for raw commodities is increasing and driving many of these overseas purchases.

"It is clear that Chinese bidders are increasingly concentrating their efforts to acquire mining assets in North America or Australasia - with an obvious preference for the latter," he said.

"Looking forward, the dominance of energy, mining and utilities transactions is likely to continue into 2010," Chia said.

Bidders may soon return to bid for assets in the financial services sector, where investment opportunities are expected to arise from reforms in Europe and North America.

Although the level of overseas activity is expected to increase in 2010, Tony Ng, the financial services sector M&A partner for Deloitte China, said "national security concerns, along with the potential challenges in integrating acquired assets as well as differing business cultures" are things Chinese bidders now consider when buying an overseas company.



# Tarnished courtroom dreams

## Study reveals difficult lives of young lawyers

By Venus Lee

Being a lawyer sounds heroic: you use your wit and eloquence to defend innocent clients, then earn a reputation as "a defender of justice." The attractive income does not hurt either; no wonder more and more students are choosing to major in law.

But how does real life measure up to expectations? A group of junior college students at Northwest University of Political Science and Law in Shaanxi Province published a report concerning the life of young lawyers in the capital Xi'an — a revelation that deflated the dreams of many law students and revealed the career is less prestigious than imagined.



The law profession has rapidly developed since the country instituted economic reforms in 1978.

CFP Photos

### A worrying lifestyle and trend

A young lawyer's suicide in Baoji, Shaanxi Province, two years ago made seven law students curious about the life of young lawyers in Xi'an, where their university is located. Early this year, they approached the news magazine *Southern Window* for help conducting a study on the subject after taking part in an annual university students' survey sponsored by the publication. Their findings were released last month.

From April to October, they visited 79 law offices, interviewed 19 young lawyers and received 190 responses to the 435 questionnaires they handed out. Their subjects were lawyers under age 40 who have been practicing for one to five years.

"Income" was a word the researchers heard again and again from their respondents: more than 30 percent earned only 800 yuan a month; the rest earned less than 2,500.

"If you subtract case acceptance fees, taxes, the cost of insurance and the law office's commission, their salary is only enough to meet basic expenses. One-third cannot even make ends meet," Dai Dandan, 20, one of the researchers, said.

"I almost had no income my first year at a law office. With only an intern's 300-yuan salary, you can imagine how hard it was to survive in the city. Basically, in the first

two years, I still needed to ask for my family's financial support. It was only after obtaining my law license in the third year that I began to earn 30,000 yuan a year," Yang Mian, a 31-year-old lawyer, said.

"The income among lawyers is uneven: 20 percent take almost 80 percent of the money in the market. The more famous, savvy and clever a lawyer is, the less he has to worry about clients, and vice versa," he said.

The report mentioned several factors for the difficulties faced by young lawyers. Among them were their limited network of clients, lack of knowledge in marketing themselves and the country's relatively young legal system.

"The number of cases that young lawyers handle is very limited. More than half of them handle less than 10 cases each year, and 30 percent handle less than five," Dai said.

"Most clients are introduced by relatives and friends ... It's hard to earn clients' trust because of their lack of name and experience, so many young lawyers only land cases that can't pay well," she said.

The investigation revealed that more than 50 percent of respondents worked at least eight hours a day, and that only 13 percent took leave or holidays.

Nearly 30 percent wanted to work in the government or in the academe.

### Rethinking the tarnished fantasy

Dai said her group's intention for conducting the study was to provide the public information about the profession and to help law students plan their careers. "We also wanted to draw the public's attention to young lawyers in the west, where the legal profession's environment is inferior to that in metropolises like Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou," she said.

Films and television programs portray lawyers as an elite group: highly educated, cultured and well paid, with an elevated social status, flexible work hours and manageable job stress. "Many students were deeply influenced by lawyers on the big screen when they chose their major. They barely had con-

tact with young lawyers in their daily life," said Luo Yang, 20, one of the other researchers.

The report shone a light on reality. Many of the researchers' schoolmates said the professional was not what they imagined, while some began having second thoughts about becoming a lawyer, Luo said.

"As law students, we're concerned with the life and development of young lawyers, because most of us will probably become part of the group," Feng Lan, 20, said.

She had long dreamt about becoming a lawyer but changed her mind after seeing the report. "The profession is more difficult than I expected. My communication skills aren't

very good, so it's going to be a big challenge for me to find clients and maintain a network," Feng said, adding that she will instead "take the civil service examination and try to become a public servant."

Meanwhile, Lei Haijun, a 36-year-old lawyer at the Yixing Law Office in Beijing, disagreed with the study's conclusion. He said the principle of "survival of the fittest" holds true for any career.

"Young lawyers in any country all face the same problem at the beginning of their careers. It's useless to complain of difficulty in finding cases, then attribute the problem to the current legal system. In my opinion, their poor life is due to their laziness and greed," he said.

### Passage of time as solution

Jiang Min, the deputy chairman of the All China Lawyers' Association, said many young lawyers want to become well-known overnight, but it usually takes seven to 10 years to establish one's name.

"The first two years after graduation, they have to work as an intern, then become a litigation lawyer after getting their certificate in their third or fourth year. Eventually they become an expert in a certain field and may be able to open a law office seven years later," he said.

"No one can speed up the process. There are no shortcuts in this career, so young lawyers should maintain objectivity and not be

too eager for quick success and instant returns."

Jiang said the growth of law practices is entwined with a locality's economic growth. He said there are 16,000 licensed lawyers in China, over 60 percent of whom are under 40 and half of them can be found in metropolises such as Beijing, Guangzhou and Shanghai, where young lawyers' lives are better compared with their counterparts in the west.

The incomes of litigation and non-litigation lawyers also differ, Jiang said. The report mainly reflected litigation lawyers' fluctuating pay, which is affected by market forces like fame and connec-

tions, he said. Non-litigation lawyers, on the other hand, the bulk of the population, depend on a team and get stable pay.

Jiang said the All China Lawyers' Association, together with local lawyers' associations, has programs that aim to help young lawyers. Every other year, Jiang's group holds a forum that provides a venue for young lawyers to communicate and learn from each other. Local lawyers' associations also arrange provincial speaking tours for renowned lawyers, in which they share with young lawyers their success stories. Financial support is also available to young lawyers who need an extra boost.



More than 60 percent of lawyers in the country are under age 40.



# Modern dance portrays melding of cultures



By He Jianwei

The Scottish Dance Theater performed three programs created by foreign guest choreographers at Mei Lanfang Grand Theater last Friday and Saturday.

The first, "Tenderhook," by Britain's Liv Lorent, adopted

movements from the Chinese belt dance. "She set out to explore a physicality that evokes our sometimes blind search for the impossible perfect love and an evolution toward a different love – one of acceptance, compromise and interdependence," Janet

Smith, the troupe's artistic director, said.

Uri Ivgi from Israel and Johan Greben from Holland collaborated on the second dance, "In the Middle of the Moment," which presented a duet within a space of 3 square meters.

"We had to stage it in small venues on tour with (Edinburgh's) Hebrides Ensemble where they were surrounding us on stage," James MacGillivray, one of the dancers, said.

But it was Israeli choreographer Hofesh Schecter's "Dog" that introduced the most innovative ideas to the company.

The program started with two of movements: one was hard and choppy; the other soft, quiet and earthy. "The dance is full of imagery, energy and ideas. Schecter likes to be enigmatic and intriguing with his titles and offers 'Dog' as a clue – a point of reference. He tells us 'the title of a dance piece is not an answer,'" Smith said.

Schecter's choreography is largely unconventional, said Sally Owen, the troupe's assistant director. "It struck me that he brought a different cultural background and a dance culture with him," she said.

Schecter once served in

the Israeli army, an experience that has influenced his work. "I was dancing during my service, so my involvement in the army was minimal, but it still influenced me for sure," he said. "It made me question social structures and the conflict of messages within the social structure."

Smith conceived of the performance when she was struck by how the boundaries between art forms were crumbling and hybrids were developing everywhere. "Dance is definitely thriving in Scotland, with more young people getting involved and styles like hip hop and street dance fusing with more theatrical forms in innovative ways."

"The world is getting smaller as people travel, and I witness the cross-fertilization that's happening between cultures as we all drink in influences from each other," she said, adding that the Scottish Dance Theater looks forward to collaborating with Chinese dancers and choreographers.



Hofesh Schecter's "Dog"

Photos provided by The Scottish Dance Theater



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# German embassy marks 20th anniversary of Berlin Wall's fall

By He Jianwei

At 9 pm on Monday, at about the same hour the Berlin Wall began to crumble 20 years ago, German nationals tore down a 2-by-1-meter replica of the wall at the German Embassy to commemorate the historic event.

"The fall of the Berlin Wall was not only the beginning of German unification, it was also the end of the Cold War and the division of Europe. It changed our world as it ended the system of two superpowers and triggered what we today call globalization," Michael Schaefer, the German ambassador, said at the ceremony.



Giant, painted styrofoam dominoes lay on the ground in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin on November 9, 2009 at a commemoration ceremony.

CFP Photos

On the evening of November 9, 1989, a new life dawned upon millions of Germans: barriers were lifted at Checkpoint Charlie, the most well-known crossing in the Wall between the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) and the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany); a motorcade of East German Trabi cars made its

way toward the West; people from both sides of the divide kissed each other in joy; and the first pieces of the Wall were chiseled away.

"It seems ages ago, but all of this happened like only 20 years ago," Schaefer said.

For him and his peers, Germany's so-called "68 generation," the division between the com-

munist East and the democratic West seemed as permanent as the wall dividing Berlin.

"This Wall was a symbol of oppression, but nonetheless it appeared to us to be insurmountable," Schaefer said. "I know very few who would have predicted the fall of the Berlin Wall only weeks before it happened."

On November 9, 1989, the East German government decided to lift the travel ban to West Germany. In a press conference that afternoon, Gunter Schabowski, a high-ranking official, announced the new regulation. In response to an Italian journalist who asked when the directive would be implemented, Schabowski hesitated, then said, "As far as I know, today. Yes, today."

Minutes later, thousands of people in East Berlin moved toward the Wall's checkpoints, demanding the East German army open the barriers.

Less than a year later, Germany was reunited.

In Beijing on Monday, the German Embassy also presented an exhibition of photographs by Peter Frischmuth taken 10 years before the Wall's fall and 10 years after.



Germans start new life after November 9, 1989.

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# Inaugural awards highlight Australian university alumni

By Annie Wei

Last Saturday was the biggest night of the year for Chinese alumni of Australian universities. Graduates were recognized at the inaugural Australia China Alumni Awards at the Millennium Hotel Beijing.

Eight awards were given away, including Australian Alumni of the Year, which went to Hui Wing Mau, also known as Xu Rongmao, chairman of Shimao Property and the country's third richest man.

Thousands of Chinese students have studied in Australia since the 1970s and the Awards have brought some of their success stories to light. Among them are Media and ICT Award winner Jenny Zhu, who hosts ChinesePod's online Chinese language-learning program; and Matthew Ng, founder and CEO of China's third largest online travel company, who took home the Australia Entrepreneurship Award.

Other winners include Qiao Luqiang, director of international arts cooperation at Beijing's National Center for the Performing Arts; and Chao Zhao, deputy head of industrial design at Tsinghua University, who won the Qantas Research and Innovation award for achievements in his design career.

"[The awards] underline the central role being played in the development of the relationship between Australia and China, by both the alumni of Australian uni-

versities, of which we would hope to see more in the future, and by Australian alumni of Chinese universities as well," said Rowan Callick, one of the judges and Asia Pacific editor of *The Australian*.

Sponsored by CPA Australia, the Awards also received support from the Australian government and business community, including ANZ Bank, Qantas Airways Limited and the Australian government agencies for development, trade and education.

Other finalists for Alumni of the Year included University of New South Wales (UNSW) graduate Shi Zhengrong, founder and chairman of Suntech Power; University of Western Australia's Colin Giles, who, as Nokia China President has been credited with increasing the telecommunication giant's market share in China to 40 percent; Asia Ray Group Founder and Chairman Vincent Lam, a graduate of both The University of Sydney and UNSW.

Vice President and Regional Compliance Officer with Siemens and Swinburne University of Technology graduate, Stefan Hoffman-Kuhnt; Macquarie (MGSM) graduate and Adidas regional head for north China Holly Li; and Kevin Wale, a graduate of The University of Melbourne and president and managing director of General Motors China Group.



From Left to Right: Edward Smith, director of ACAA; Geoff Raby, Australian Ambassador to China; Iain Watt, minister counselor; and Quentin Stevenson-Perks, counselor of education, Australian Embassy, at a press conference.

Photo by Seppe Van Gricken

Next year's Awards ceremony will be held in the Australian Pavilion at the World Expo in Shanghai.

The Awards are an initiative of the Australia China Alumni Association (ACAA), a non-profit organization founded in 2007 and funded by 20 Australian Universities and several Australian government agencies. The ACAA, which has offices in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, aims to connect Australian university alumni across China with their universities and with each other. Alumni can reg-

ister on the website to receive updates, event notices and news.

The ACAA currently has 3,700 members representing about half of Australian universities. About 170 people were nominated for the awards.

The Australian government awards at least AU \$40 million (254 million yuan) in scholarships to Asian students every year; a third goes to Chinese students. Australia's education authority has also run an education program for Chinese government employees for the past 30 years.

## First pro muay Thai fight in town



Photo by Zhang Xu

The first professional muay Thai fight Battlefield X1 Supremacy was held Wednesday evening at the China World Hotel. Vince Soberano (top), the eight-time world champion, defeated his opponent US fighter Bryon Schnell in less than 10 minutes. A total of 22 fighters from seven countries including the US, Thailand and China competed in the event.

Xu Aihui, China's first and only professional female muay Thai fighter, defeated Sonrex Patanao from the Philippines. All proceeds from the event will be given to the China Children and Teenagers Foundation (CCTF), which helps orphans and children in impoverished areas.

(By Zhang Dongya)

## Event

### Navigating Cross-cultural Values seminar

This workshop aims to give participants who recently relocated to the country the tools to understand and adapt to their new home. Cross-cultural trainer Joann Pittman, a long-time China resident, will cover topics such as dealing with culture shock and understanding Chinese cultural values.

Where: Landmark Business Center, 2/F Landmark Office Tower 2, 8 Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: November 13, 9:15 am - 3 pm

Tel: 6590 6663

Cost: 1,100 yuan

### What Makes a Successful Entrepreneur workshop

AmCham-China's Young Professionals Committee and the Canada China Business Council invite you to hear Robert Zou, founder and CEO of China's first foreign-invested chain of dental clinics, Arrail Dental, share the secrets of his success as an entrepreneur.

Zou will talk about preparation, organization and how best to tackle challenges. He will also discuss the technical and mental preparations that allowed him to achieve his business goals in the country.

Zou worked in both government organizations and private enterprises prior to setting up his own business in the 1990s.

Where: Renaissance Beijing Capital Hotel, 61 Dongsanhuan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: November 13, 12-2 pm

Tel: 5863 8009

Cost: Free

### Healthy Road charity walk

This 4.7-kilometer walk through Chaoyang Park is a fun and healthy way to raise money for breast cancer patients. Organized by the China National Breast Cancer Foundation, the event is expected to draw around 1,000 participants, including some celebrities.

Where: Chaoyang Park, Nongzhan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: November 14, 9:30 am - noon

Tel: 5181 7021

Cost: 100 yuan

### Crazy About Cookies

Romain Beaulande, a native of Brittany, France, learned to make tempting desserts from his grandmother, a professional baker. He came to Beijing six years ago and this year decided to pursue his passion for baking by setting up Chez Romain Bakery Studio, which also holds classes in making French desserts.

Where: Pantry Magic, D108, 1/F Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: November 14, 3-5 pm

Tel: 5208 6001

Cost: Free

(By Wei Ying)



# Ski resorts to open soon

By Zhao Hongyi

The heavy snowfall this week will allow ski resorts to open earlier than expected. The city's most popular ski venues, such as Yuyang Ski, Huaibei Ski and Badaling Ski, are scheduled to open before the month's end.

According to the weather forecast, the temperature will hover around 0 Celsius degree in the weeks ahead – perfect for skiing.

"The heavy snow has lowered the ground temperature. This will enable us to produce man-made snow if needed, and we don't have to worry about the snow melting," Wang Shitong, general manager of Huaibei Ski, said.

"Temperature and humidity are the two most critical factors that influence our business," he said. "Whether it snows or not is not very important."

Li Likai, general manager of Yunfoshan Ski, said "temperature of 0 Celsius degree is usually needed to produce and maintain snow, which takes about three days to produce."

Many of the capital's ski resorts have already begun producing artificial snow, including Yuyang Ski. This year, however, it is not churning out as much snow as last year nor did it douse its slopes with water to lower the ground temperature. "It may not be needed this year," Dai Liangchao, the resort's manager, said.

Nanshan Ski, meanwhile, has already ironed out the other details for its November 21 opening. "We have finished the maintenance services on our slopes and tools, and the training of our staff," an employee said.

Beijing companies traditionally hold their annual general assembly at ski resorts or bring their employees there as an end-of-the-year treat.



Skiing has become a popular winter sport in Beijing

CFP Photo

## Badaling Ski

Open: 9 am – 7 pm

Price: 30-40 yuan/hour/person

Tel: 6501 0330; 6501 0331

Getting there: Take Bus 919 at Deshengmen to Xibazi station, then hop on a cab to the resort or go on foot for 20 minutes. Alternatively, drive along Badaling Expressway, turn off at Exit No. 21, then head west for another 3 kilometers.

Web: bdlskiing.com

## Huaibei Ski

Open: 8 am – 5:30pm

Price: 20 yuan for entrance; 40-60 yuan/hour/person

Tel: 8969 6677

Getting there: Take Bus 936 at Dongzhimen all the way to the resort, or take Beijing-Chengde Expressway to the Yanqi intersection, then turn north and go another 5 kilometers

Web: hbski.com

## Jundushan Ski

Open: 8 am – 6 pm

Price: 30-50 yuan/hour /person

Tel: 6072 5888

Getting there: Take Bus 919 or

345 to Changping Dongguan, then take local Bus 21 to Cuicunzhen; take Subway Line 13 to Longze station, then hop on local Bus 21 to Cuicunzhen; drive along Beijing-Chengde Expressway to the Xiaotangshan or Baishan exit, then turn off the highway and follow the road signs. Alternatively, drive along Badaling Expressway to Exit No. 12, head to Jingmi Canal and follow the road signs, or turn off at Exit No. 16, then head to the Dongguan intersection and follow the road signs

Web: bjski.com.cn

## Nanshan Ski

Open: 9 am – 7 pm

Price: 20 yuan entrance; 30-50 yuan/hour/person

Tel: 8909 1909

Getting there: Take Bus 980 at Dongzhimen to Miyun Xidaqiao station, then take a taxi; drive along Beijing-Chengde Expressway, take Shunyi-Miyun Expressway, then turn off at the first intersection and drive another 3 kilometers; drive along the Airport Expressway, take Shunyi Express-

way, then turn off at the Henanzhai intersection and drive for another 3 kilometers.

Web: nanshanski.com

## Yunfoshan Ski

Open: 9 am – 5 pm

Price: 20 yuan entrance; 40-50 yuan/hour/person

Tel: 6960 2044; 13910619894; 13699278711

Getting there: Take Bus 980 at Dongzhimen to Miyun Opera House, then take local Bus 8. Alternatively, take Bus 987 at Dongzhimen direct to the ski resort; or drive along Beijing-Chengde Expressway, turn off at Exit No. 16 and head north

Web: yun66.com

## Yuyang Ski

Open: 8:30 am – 5:30 pm

Price: 20 yuan/hour/person

Tel: 5869 3355

Getting there: Take Bus 918 at Dongzhimen to Century Plaza station, then take a taxi; or drive along the Airport Expressway, then turn off at Beijing-Pinggu Expressway upon reaching the Capital Airport

Web: yuyangski.com.cn

## ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to:  
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**I've been looking for ground turkey, but can never find it locally.**

**With Thanksgiving around the corner, where can I find good deals on US frozen turkey?**

You can buy a whole frozen turkey in BHG at Solana on Lucky Street, near the 21st Century Hotel.

You can also check out the supermarket's branch in Shunyi.

Those from supermarkets like Auchan cost 88 yuan per kilogram; they're 45 yuan per kilogram at Jenny Lou's.

The best deal is at Dong Jiao Market, which is around 30 yuan per kilogram for the US brand Norbest.

**Any suggestions on where to buy a good, powerful vacuum cleaner with HEPA filters that can work on carpets as well as tiles or bamboo flooring? I'd like to get a Dyson model but the brand is not sold in China.**

Check out LG's Cyking vacuum cleaners. The line has several models with HEPA filters; they are clearly labeled on the machine body. They seem to be very dependable and sturdy.

The Suning appliance store in Wangjing, near Lotte Mart, has a large selection of Cykings.

(By Wei Ying)

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By He Jianwei

Fashion designers often look to the past to inspire the future, and China's history is ripe with designs awaiting a second life.

The China Fashion Week 2010 Spring and Summer Collections held from November 2 to 10 featured almost 70 fashion shows where designers bridged ancient and modern and East and West.



Photos provided by NE•TIGER



## "Tradition is an inexhaustible pressure."

Zhang Zhifeng, founder and chief designer of NE•TIGER

The models appeared wearing butterflies and fans as ancient poems were read in the background. Leading luxury brand NE•TIGER opened the eighth annual China Fashion Week at the Golden Hall of the Beijing Hotel on November 2.

Its 2010 collection, "Butterfly and Fan – Good Karma," continues the themes of previous Hua Fu collections, blending ancient and modern and Chinese and Western.

The butterfly has been a symbol of beauty since ancient times, and the fan, with a history of over 4,000 years in China, symbolizes ties of affection. "The aesthetics of [this collection] show the softness and hardness of Chinese culture, so we adopted the two icons to represent female and male costumes," Zhang Zhifeng, founder and chief designer of NE•TIGER, said.

Zhang and his team have devoted themselves to bridging the ancient and modern in the fashion field. "I hope we can update these costumes to improve the development of China's emerging luxury industry and create a luxury brand really belonging to China," he said.

At this year's show, Zhang used record knots as part of the collection. Keeping records by tying knots dates back to ancient times. At that time, people tied knots on a string to keep records, making big knots for big events and small knots for the trivial. The technique makes the costumes a sculpture of fabric.

"Tradition is an inexhaustible treasure," Zhang said, "Relying on tradition is the biggest advantage Chinese designers have. We believe our generation can create a new era of Chinese 'formal dress' and create a new national costume."

# Beauty hewn from the past

## "Future of the city belongs to the dreamers."

Cabbeen, founder and designer of Cabbeen

In a bauhaus-style building at 798 Art District, the catwalk was decorated like an alley with the big screen showing skyscrapers. Models wearing Cabbeen's new collection walked down it on November 2.

Cabbeen's new collection focused on the theme "city dream," which was broken down into Urban Poet, Aviator and "Architectology."

The designer has opened his brand in many cities, and his travels to set up each location have lent both passion and inspiration.

"From the airport to the downtown, I am always fascinated by architecture. Some buildings are bizarre with shining neon lights; some are like something out of a science-fiction film; others are delicate," Cabbeen said.

People who live in the city have more pressure, but "they must keep their dreams and faith," he said. "The future of the city belongs to the dreamers, no matter what gender and color they are, and what job they have."

In the first part, the designer created a "poetic" city image using the fluorescent colors of the clothing. "Whether the city is a forest of armored concrete or a poetic one depends on people's attitude," he said.

The Aviator series created an illusion of traveling from one place to another, using the designer's life as inspiration. "Practicality was the policy for my designs in this part," he said.

Jackets with several pockets in metal colors

Photo provided by

were the highlights of the show, and tourists ready for the

The last chapter of the collection, "Architectology," featured architecture, technology, and sized geometrical shapes like magnets.

"Clothes must move with the body, whether they stand, sit, or walk."



Photo provided by Mark CHEUNG

## "I have become a dreamer and it shows in my designs."

Zhang Zhaoda, founder and chief designer of NE•TIGER

Sitting in the corner of the stage, the models wore traditional Chinese clothing during Mark CHEUNG's show.

Like most Chinese designers, Zhang Zhaoda is moving toward the ostentatious and modern.

The hermit became a dreamer after years of traveling China and the world.

At this year's show, Zhang's stage was left unpainted and black displayed a human sufferings like a dream.

The last five represent the "Tangka," a Tibetan art form. The designer did not use light but instead used light to create a dream.

"I have become a dreamer and it shows in my designs," Zhang said, "Although I am a Buddhist saying phantoms are real."



om



Cabbeen

of this chapter. Models were dressed as the next trip.

ocused on the relationship between technology and design. The designer emphasized aesthetics and the use of odd accessories

ake people comfortable no matter sit or run," he said.

## come tranquil, ws in my

designer of Mark CHEUNG

ner of the stage, an artist played talked slowly and without expression NG's closing show last Sunday.

e designers, Zhang's work tends ous – sort of.

ne a Buddhist 10 years ago. His ina have only furthered his isolation.

w, the theme was Zen. The wooden ated and the music was sutra chants.

g, the seven pieces in purple, blue n ethereal beauty. The next 16 showed birth, death, illness and aging.

esented the designer's love of t using painted silk, satin or cloth.

paint the patterns on the clothes t to project them onto the models.

tranquil, and it shows in my designs," gh some of the clothes are sexy, it fits ng: All reality is a phantom and all



CFP Photos

## “Take the bull by the horn to achieve extreme beauty.”

Guo Pei, president and chief designer of Rose Studio

Covered by rough and hard copper armor, a model dragged a 6-meter-long fur cloak down the 50-meter-long T stage for 15 minutes of Guo Pei's new collection last Friday at the National Indoor Stadium. The 2,000 people in the audience cheered the design.

Guo presented 16 pieces based on “1002 Nights,” her collection inspired by *One Thousand and One Nights*, the story collection compiled during the Islamic golden age.

Guo is fascinated by fairy tales, both as a designer and as a mother of two daughters. “Every girl has dreamed of wearing a fabulous dress and having a stunning wedding,” she said. “Although reality doesn't always turn out that way, we can still dream to get through life.”

In 2006's show, she designed a fairy tale dress based on Tim Burton's *Corpse Bride*. At this year's show, “the princess grew up to become queen,” she said.

The Arabian stories spin timeless yarns of lies and sincerity, betrayal and trust and of death and rebirth.

Guo used this topic as a blueprint for her show. “When you reach the end of the road, you find another road in front of you; when you leap off a cliff, you find you are standing on the clouds. Those feelings are the same as making haute couture, because it takes persistence and bravery to reach the ultimate goal,” she said.

Her ambition is to build one of the world's largest fashion museum, so her designs pursue the perfection of beauty.

The models wore extremely high stiletto heels to make their legs appear longer, though walking became extraordinarily difficult. “Without the high shoes, the beauty of the clothes wouldn't come out,” she said.

Her final skirt was the heaviest, weighing over 50 kilograms. It was decorated with white and red crystals.



# Obama drama on the campaign trail

By Charles Zhu

When awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to Barack Obama, the Nobel Prize committee commended him for "creating a new climate in international politics."

Despite only 10 months in office, this first black president of the US has already acquired the political and literary luster once limited to John F. Kennedy.

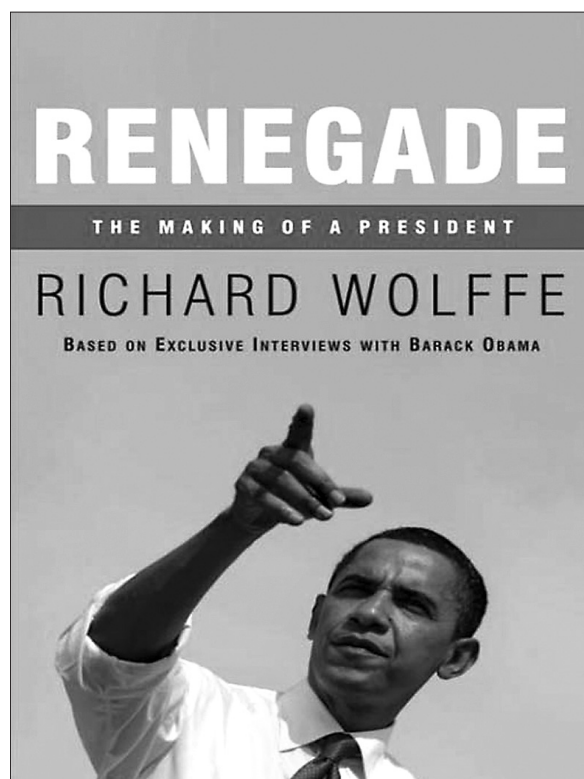
Shortly after JFK's election, Theodore White published *The Making of the President, 1960*: Richard Wolffe answered in the 21st century with *Renegade: The Making of a President* (356pp, Crown Publishers, \$26), a book based on his day-to-day coverage on the 21-month campaign for *Newsweek*.

The book gives an extraordinarily personal look into the president's impossible rise: a solemn meditation on Obama's life and character.

"A fear of failure and a vaulting ambition are the twin forces that drove Obama onward and upward," Wolffe writes. When Obama decided to start the campaign, he was 99th out of 100 senators in seniority. He failed admission to the Democratic convention in 2000, and his credit card was declined when he tried to rent a car in Los Angeles.

But a crucial Iowa win and 11 straight wins after Super Tuesday propelled him to "feel too self-assured about his own abilities and accomplishments."

Not that he had much to doubt. In fleshing out the love story of the president and his wife Michelle, Wolffe



learned she asked her elder brother Craig Robinson, a two-time Ivy League player of the year, to assess the young lawyer on the basketball court. Craig reported back that the lanky suitor was "quietly confident," "a natural leader" and "wasn't a pig."

The meat of the text deals with the drama of the Obama-Clinton race rather than his run against McCain as the Democratic nominee. The former first lady excited the Obama team as often as she got under its skin, and the stories make it clear why the Secret Service has dubbed this president "Quiet Ren-

egade": the man who rewrote American politics.

Well before the end of the primaries, Obama had decided to offer Hillary Clinton a position as his secretary of state, Wolffe writes. Even while his staff and friends were hostile to the idea, "I felt that she was disciplined, that she was precise, that she was smart as a whip and that she would present a really strong image to the world," Obama told Wolffe.

The day before the president-elect was off to Washington, Michelle and their daughters left early to prepare for the start of school, leaving him alone to make the family's farewell to Chicago.

"He found it hard to say goodbye to their old life and space," Wolffe writes. A friend of his daughter Malia "dropped off an album of photos of them together. As he flipped through the pages, sitting alone in his empty home, he cried."

*Renegade* offers such human glimpses into the life of a man who, until 2012, must also say

farewell to anything resembling the privacy and normalcy most take for granted.

But that is a challenge for which Obama was all too well prepared.

In tracing the president's character, Wolffe says Obama can "detach his emotions to study his own situation just as his anthropologist mother studied foreign countries and cultures." It is the defense mechanism of a boy abandoned by his father and separated from the people he loved most – his mother and maternal grandparents – by the color of his skin.

## Characters are the essence of Chinese culture



By He Jianwei

Reading Zhang Dachun's new book *Know Some Characters* (366pp, Shiji Publishing Group Shanghai People's Publishing House, 46 yuan) is a shaming experience for many Chinese people. Although the book deals with their native language, the nuances behind many of

the characters come as a surprise.

*Characters* is the Taiwanese writer's second book published on the mainland. In this book, Zhang detaches himself from previous roles as spokesman for vanguard novels, leading kung fu author, screenwriter and radio personality.

The Zhang in this book is an "old" character interpreter. He explains the origin and evolution of 89 Chinese characters to his son and daughter using clever language.

With pens having replaced brushes and computers having replaced pens, the traditional writing of many characters has fallen into memory. Research into their evolution is non-existent. Against this backdrop, Zhang's book arrives as a scream from the mouth of oblivion.

But he sees hope in the next generation.

"I do not only teach the children to learn the characters, but help them to recognize their connection with the world," he said.

The writer's daughter Zhang Yi studies piano in Taipei. Like most children, she hates it. But that complaining on the way home opened up a half-hour lecture on the multiple meanings and origins of

the character "practice."

Zhang told his daughter that practice not only implies "doing repeatedly," but also means "the anniversary of a parent's death."

After the explanation, he told her, "It is time to practice piano." But the daughter shot back, "Now is a bad time to 'practice' it," emphasizing its double meaning. He could not help but mock his handling of the incident in the book: "At least she remembered a Chinese character."

There is logic behind the construction of most characters: one part suggests the meaning and another part the sound. Zhang dissects the original construction, explains the inscription on oracle bones and how it has evolved through history.

"Most Westerners assume 'simplified characters,' introduced and promoted by the government since 1930s," introduced the sound element, he said. But "the traditional characters ... have always been complicated in strokes, elaborate in meaning, sophisticated in understanding and serviceable in usage."

The author is still seeking opportunities to explain more characters to his son and daughter, who admit with a groan, "We've been brainwashed by him again."

## CNPIEC Bookstore book listing

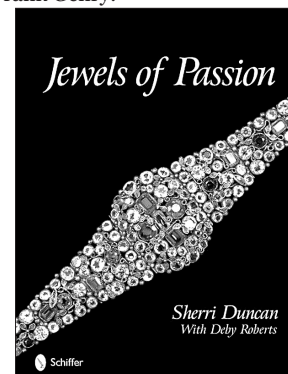
The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends these new arrivals to *Beijing Today* readers.



**American Design**

By Russell Flinchum, 144pp, The Museum of Modern Art New York, 220 yuan

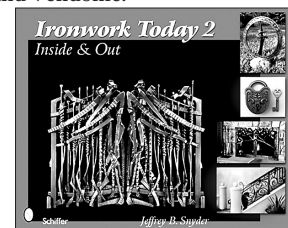
America's designs, like its culture, perennially oscillates between populism and elitism: between revolutionary beauty and availability of Tupperware and the elusive exclusivity of Tiffany's. This book traces the development of American design from the "armory practice" of early machinists through mid-century "designs for modern living" and the branded, consumer-oriented designs of present day, including works by Charles and Ray Eames, Raymond Loewy and Frank Gehry.



**Jewels of Passion: Costume Jewelry Masterpieces**

By Sherri R. Duncan, Deby A. Roberts, 176pp, Schiffer Publishing, 279 yuan

The book showcases fantastic costume jewelry from 53 top designers of the 20th century, including Christian Dior, Miriam Haskell, Kenneth Jay Lane, Elsa Schiaparelli, Stanley Hagler, Trifari and Vendome.



**Ironwork Today 2: Inside & Out**

By Jeffrey B. Snyder, 256pp, Schiffer Publishing, 347 yuan

Metal art ranges from massive public monuments to small, everyday objects. It includes sculptures, gates, railings, furniture, lighting fixtures, doors and locks. This book is the second in a series pioneered by the late Dona Meilach and provides readers familiar with her work with a new look at the artists they have come to know as well as an introduction to those previously unknown.

(By He Jianwei)



# Seeds of creativity



By Wang Yu

While China is not a Buddhist country, bead necklaces and bracelets are everywhere – from people's wrists to their rear-view mirrors. The handicrafts are often bought for luck or an ability to ward off evil. Some people just buy them for the bead art.

These seed carvings can be valuable collectables. In addition to olive seeds, local collectors love carvings made on banyan seeds imported from India and Nepal. Even without carving, many of the seeds have unique and interesting veins.

Jiang Yuejin, owner of Lianhuaju, one of the city's most reputable seed arts stores, began collecting five years ago. "I think people get into the scene because it is cultural. For young people, it can be an affordable hobby and a way to collect the wonders of nature," Jiang says.

At the antique collection market in the city's northwest, visitors to Lianhuaju are stunned by Jiang Yuejin's creative handicrafts made from seeds, gourds and walnuts.

Half the products are scattered randomly on the counter regardless of their value. Across the room is the office area where his wife Hu Xiaoyan runs their online store. A studio light behind her is used for photographing the products.

Jiang sits across the counter. His tree-root seat is low, making it easier for customers to sort through the beads undistracted. The 51-year-old collector wears two olive seed bracelets carved with faces of arhats.

"We started this hobby after opening our shop. Now I keep getting new antiques for my collection. No matter what you are looking for, the fun is in finding it," Jiang says.

Like many workers laid off after his company lost government funding in 1996, Jiang has worked a variety of jobs to scrape out a living. Though he wanted to get into collecting handicrafts, the price was always a barrier.

"In 2004, when I was working at a friend's company, my wife decided to start the shop. We liked seed handicrafts and knew a bit about them, so we thought, Why not turn it into a business?" Jiang says.

The couple borrowed 40,000 yuan from family members to open Lianhuaju that summer. At first, there were not many things for sale. Most of the products were quite common but sold well.

He and his wife dreamed bigger.

"The handicrafts scene exploded during the SARS scare in 2003. A lot of people were

buying necklaces and bracelets because they thought the beads were made for Buddhists and could exorcise evil (SARS) spirits," Jiang says.

Many dealers stocked beads hoping to profit from the crisis. But the disease was soon under control and the dealers lost money. However, that rush to buy up beads had

are naturally colorful, and the store names its sorted groups after flowers. The olive seeds, carved by craftsmen contracted by the shop, are valuable for their intricate designs.

"These craftsmen are famous in the scene and their names on the labels are what make the beads valuable," Hu says. One of the newest

**"The handicrafts scene exploded during the SARS scare in 2003. A lot of people were buying necklaces and bracelets because they thought the beads were made for Buddhists and could exorcise evil (SARS) spirits."**

turned the handicrafts into pop collectables.

The best sellers at Lianhuaju are olive seeds, banyan seeds and walnuts. Olive seeds are collected in Suzhou while banyan seeds are imported from India and Nepal. As for the walnuts, their value depends on their natural shape. Most are sorted into groups like "lions' heads," "antique officer caps" and "lanterns." A pair of lion heads can cost 3,000 yuan.

The banyan seeds are also natural collectables. The seeds

collections features olive seeds carved with the faces of Buddha's 18 disciples. Each is based on the background story of the character, and are so detailed you can count their teeth.

Every year, Jiang goes to

Suzhou, Jiangsu Province and Laishui County, Shandong Province, to source seeds and meet more craftsmen.

"I think a bracelet is more valuable the longer you wear it. The color changes and the seeds become a part of you," he says.

The strands are assembled by Hu. The most valuable one cost more than 30,000 yuan.

Jiang started a website [jcdyz.com.cn](http://jcdyz.com.cn) for bead collectors in 2006 to list the city's top seeds. But one of the listed products, a string of banyan seeds, is not for sale. The bracelet was the first banyan seed product the couple ever sold, and it was sold to a reporter who promised to return it a year later.

Those beads went on quite a journey.

"The reporter told me he went to many places with the bracelet and it was touched by many famous monks. Compared with other banyan seed bracelets, this one is softer and brighter. It has something indescribable about it," Hu says. Those beads are not for sale, no matter the price.

To outsiders, such collecting is a hobby for the elderly. But Jiang said most of his patrons are in their 20s. The shop's business picked up in the afternoon, and the sea of 20-something faces proved his words.

"It is interesting that people around 50 come to my shop asking how I sell these. The 30-year-olds talk a lot and buy nothing. But the 80s generation buys without hesitation. They earn money themselves and most of them don't have to raise kids, their parents don't need their money and that makes them wonderful customers," Jiang says.



*Jiang Yuejin's store is famous for its imported banyan seed bracelets (middle) and olive seeds (above) carved by craftsmen in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province.*

Photos by Song Nannan

## What is a banyan?

A banyan is a fig that starts its life growing from the cracks and crevices of a host tree. Its seeds are dispersed by fruit-eating birds. The seeds germinate and their roots reach toward the ground, sometimes swallowing the host tree with their roots.

Older banyan trees are characterized by their aerial prop roots which grow into the thick woody trunks which, with age, can become indistinguishable from the main trunk. The largest tree is found in Kolkata in India. One of the most famous of banyan trees was planted on the island of Kabirvad in Gujarat. It is the national tree of India.





Portable ashtrays, 20 yuan



Ceramic cups, 19-25 yuan

Photos by Sun Cheng

## The original shop

By Annie Wei

Among the many booming factory outlets along Ping'an Avenue is Chao Space, which stands out for its plentiful selection of fashionable clothes and original accessories.

It sells domestic designer labels like Unlimited and Mianhuatou, which are otherwise found only in department stores like Joy City in Xidan and Raffles City in Dongzhimen.

Shop owner Sun Cheng is a young local designer who supports original designs and particularly admires products made in Taiwan and Japan. Because of his "be unique" philosophy, many of the clothes in Chao Space stock one piece per style.

The store also has vintage-style telephones (298 yuan), ceramic cups popular in the 1970s and 1980s (19 to 25 yuan), old-fashioned photo frames (68 to 78 yuan), notebooks made from recycled materials (30 to 60 yuan), hand-made wallets in newspaper patterns (58 yuan), portable ashtrays (20 yuan) and condom-shaped toothpick holders (39 yuan).

Sun says he is negotiating with more designers to carry a bigger variety of original products.

### Chao Space

Where: 84 Dongsishitiao, Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District  
Open: 1-9 pm  
Tel: 6401 3359

## Wines from Ningxia

By Annie Wei

Representatives from Silver Heights, a Ningxia winemaker, visited Beijing last Wednesday and shared the company's latest products with local wine experts.

The brand has two main product lines: Family Reserve (228 yuan) and The Summit (350 yuan). Family Reserve (60 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 30 percent Cabernet Gernischt and 10 percent Cabernet Franc) has a ruby red color and the aroma of vanilla and cream. It has a well-balanced taste and smooth tannin.

The Summit (60 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 20 percent Cabernet Gernischt and 20 percent Cabernet Franc) is also ruby red, but with the scent of wood and berries. It tastes smooth and balanced.

The wines are made from grapes grown on eastern Helan Mountain, Ningxia region, at an altitude of 1,200 meters. The company produced its first batch of wines in 2007 when Emma Gao, daughter of the owners, returned from studying winemaking in Bordeaux, France. Her family has been growing grapes in the region for a dozen years.

Nicolas Carre, a French sommelier and wine expert present at the wine tasting, said Silver Heights seems to be getting better at its new business: its 2008 wines taste better than its first year's products.

Local consumers, however, consider it pricey. Gao said this is because of the quality they try to maintain: all of their equipment, such as barrels and plugs, are imported from either France, the US or Spain.

Ningxia produces only a third as many grapes as places like Shandong. On the other hand, the lean soil helps maintain a consistent quality, Gao said.

At 12 hectares, Silver Heights' vineyard is relatively small. Last year, it produced only 1,200 bottles each for the Family Reserve and Summit lines, which were largely sold in Shanghai and Shenzhen.

Gao said they are still bottling wine from grapes harvested in 2008. The wines will be available in town in two to six months. To order, contact Torres, Silver Heights' local distributor.

### Torres

Where: 19 Jianhua Nan Lu, Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District  
Tel: 6567 5439



Family Reserve, 228 yuan



The Summit, 350 yuan

Photos by Gao Yuan

Silver Heights' vineyard in Ningxia



Trainspotting cinema

Photo by Huang Xiao

## Zoom in on coffee and movies

By Huang Xiao

Inspired by the British novel and film of the same name, Trainspotting (Cai Huoche) is a cafe that has become one of the pioneering venues for screening independent films in Beijing. It opened in the Wangjing area in 2003, and recently moved to Fangjia Hutong, one of the city's newest creative zones.

Compared to the industrial, nostalgic decor of the old venue, the new one is more homey, artistic and attractive. Inside is a square glass building, like a white box placed on the grassy yard. The floor-to-ceiling windows allow people outside to see the cozy interior; it also allows guests sitting on the sofa to have full view of the yard and the Beijing Modern Dance Theater across the lane.

Trainspotting serves "contemporary" Chinese cuisine and various drinks. Its fruit tea (25 yuan) and Espresso (18 yuan single, 25 yuan double) are recommended.

Most people come for its weekly cultural events: film screenings, book talks and lectures. Since its establishment, Trainspotting has organized more than 150 screenings. At each, the director or producer is present for a Q & A with the audience. Organizers invite both newcomers and established names in the industry, like Tian Zhuangzhuang, Dai Dinghua and Xu Hong. Information about upcoming and past events, including photos and videos, may be found on Trainspotting's website caihuoche.com.

Popular recent events include a series of talks on Chinese contemporary art in the last 30 years, a talk by British science fiction writer Neil Gaiman and a screening of *Valentino: The Last Emperor* attended by its producer Frederic Tchong.

The cafe hopes to organize more mixed-media art events to push the boundary of various genres and bring together artists from different fields, such as poetry, design, dance and music.

### Trainspotting

Where: 46 Fangjia Hutong (south of Guozijian), Dongcheng District  
Open: 11 am - 10 pm  
Tel: 6406 0658



# Health and warmth in winter

By Wang Yu

After two heavy snowfalls, winter in Beijing is definitely in full swing. Temperatures hover above zero by day and plunge at night.

Aside from depending on your heater and warm clothing, a good meal with the right stuff will help ward off the cold. Beijingers especially like hot pot in winter, with beef or lamb thrown into the boiling stock.

This week, however, we give special mention to fish, which according to nutritionists is healthier than red meat. Besides its bodily benefits, fish is undeniably tasty. Imagine sitting in a bright and warm restaurant enjoying Japanese fish dishes or driving to the suburbs for country-style-cooked fish. Who said winter is unbearable?



Lobster buffet, 138 yuan



Fried beef, 28 yuan

## The Baiyangdian flavor

Shunyi's Houshayu village is associated with expensive restaurants, so most students and yuppies stay away from it. Well, there's now reason for people on a budget to pay a visit.

Houshayu is about half an hour away from Sanyuanqiao in normal traffic. It is beside Roma Lake, one of Shunyi's most popular landmarks. Part of the lake, however, is slightly polluted. Those not familiar with the area should watch out for signs or ask locals for directions.

The first restaurant off the main road is Baiyangdian Flavor, which serves country-style cooked fish. Baiyangdian is the name of a lake in Hebei Province – the largest natural lake in the north and dubbed "the kidney of northern China."

The lake is home to 50 varieties of fish and many species of wild geese, duck and other birds. The lake and its side parks are also home to a large number of lotus and other plants. Residents make a living through the fauna and flora around the lake. Because of its rich natural environment, the area is famous for fish dishes.

Unlike other restaurants around Roma Lake, Baiyangdian Flavor's decoration is simple: regular white ceramic tiles and glass doors. All tables in the private rooms are made of bricks, with a huge, traditional boiler in the middle, like those found in rural homes. In lieu of a gas stove, firewood is used to heat the boiler.

The house special, boiled fish, is available in two sizes (78 yuan small; 98 yuan large). *Beijing Today* suggests getting the small one to leave room for other food. Customers can choose from carp, catfish or grass carp. The fish is cut into two or more pieces and soup will be added into the boiler before it is heated.

Vegetables and other meats, like fried meat balls (18 yuan) and home-made sausage (10 yuan), can also be thrown into the pot. Tofu is recommended because it absorbs the fish and the soup's flavor.

Other main dishes such as the fried beef (28 yuan) and fried corn (20 yuan) are also worth a try.

### Baiyangdian Flavor

Where: Roma Lake, Houshayu, Shunyi District  
Open: 11 am – 3 pm; 5-10 pm  
Tel: 8047 7018  
Cost: 60 yuan average



Fried corn, 20 yuan

Photos by Song Nannan

## Season for Japanese specialties

From August to early December in Japan, the mackerel pike migrates from the northern island of Hokkaido to the south, a popular tourist region and home to many of the country's famous dishes. The fish lays eggs in summer, so from autumn till early winter, it becomes big and fat enough to make a sumptuous meal.

The mackerel pike is one of the most popular autumn foods in Japanese cuisine and is commonly salted and grilled whole, garnished with grated daikon and served alongside a bowl of rice and miso soup. Its intestines are bitter, but many people choose not to gut the fish, since many say its bitterness, balanced by condiments such as soy sauce, lime and lemon is part of its appeal.

The fish can also be pan-fried or canned. Mackerel pike sashimi is becoming increasingly available but is still far from common. It is rarely used for sushi.

Duozuo, a Japanese buffet place, serves mackerel pike in different ways: steamed, boiled, fried or roasted. Its mackerel pike sushi, roasted mackerel pike and boiled mackerel pike with vegetables are recommended.

The fish is a healthy choice as it contains protein that is easily digested, absorbed and utilized by the body. It is also rich in unsaturated fatty acids such

as EPA and DHA: the "good cholesterol" that aid in preventing heart disease.

On November 21, Duofo will celebrate its first anniversary and guests who are celebrating their birthday that day will be given a baked lobster with sea urchin jam and a birthday cake free. Each table will also be served a special dish courtesy of the head chef. Call for reservations and present an ID to take advantage of the offer.

### Duozuo

Where: 9/F Viva Beijing R&F Plaza, Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District  
Open: 11 am – 3 pm, 5-10 pm  
Tel: 5903 7198; 5093 7199  
Cost: 138 yuan per person for lunch; 258 yuan per person for dinner



Mackerel pike buffet, 138 yuan

Photos provided by Duozuo

## Other choice: toasted fish

Toasted fish restaurants are everywhere in Beijing. People like the spicy flavor however not all the fish are nice with chili. It all depends on the material and the cooking skill. Below are the restaurants that *Beijing Today* recommends.

### Zifeiyu

Where: Building 2, District 14, Heping Li, Chaoyang District  
Open: 11 am – 3 pm; 6-10 pm  
Tel: 6428 9626  
Cost: Average of 55 yuan per person

### Longmen Toasted Fish

Where: 314 Dongsi Bei Dajie, Dongcheng District  
Open: 11 am – 3 pm; 6-11 pm  
Tel: 6405 3806  
Cost: Average of 60 yuan per person

### Shuicai

Where: 9 Dachenggou Hutong, Xicheng District  
Open: 11 am – 3 pm; 6-11 pm  
Tel: 6601 5727  
Cost: Average of 60 yuan per person



# Digital and cool utopia



By He Jianwei

Many children fantasize about becoming their favorite fictional character – nowhere more so than in Japan. Japanese artist Hiroyuki Matsuura's paintings often depict children in what could be their alternative persona.

Born in Tokyo in 1964, Matsuura is known for his bright, stylized works that play off the overbearing cuteness of anime. "The characters break the boundaries between children



and adults, and between men and women. Maybe it is the charm of the virtual world," the artist says.

"Super Acrylic Skin," his first solo exhibition on the Chinese mainland, has a huge installation with new works made out of LED boxes, which turn his characters into massive light sources.

"Instead of the next-generation human figures that I normally portray using acrylic

on canvas, for this exhibition I've replaced these materials with LEDs – a smart, ecologically friendly light source that's free of ultraviolet and infrared rays, and which produces less radiation," he says.

For Matsuura, who grew up with anime and who has also created some of its characters, the boys and girls in his paintings are a familiar and intimate presence even though they exist only in his mind.

"I attempted to express the 'sacred' nature of these characters through a medium that's both 'digital' and 'cool' by depicting an ideal human race that ought to inherit the planet Earth," he says.

The body heat emanating from his characters is transformed into scattered photon particles that fill the exhibition space and stimulate the senses. "I hope viewers will be able to sense the 'imaginary temperature' of the various photons and light particles that emanate from these characters," he says.

**Super Acrylic Skin Photon – Imaginary Temperature**

Where: Tokyo Gallery + BTAP (Beijing), 8503, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until January 31, 2010, daily except Monday, 10:30 am – 6:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8457 3245

## Upcoming

### Movie

#### A Beautiful Mind

Where: Blend Coffee, Room 1354, 2/F Building 13, Jianwai SOHO West, 39 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: November 20, 7 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5869 5030

## Stage in December

### Concert

#### Piano Recital by Cristina Ortiz (Brazil)

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 4 Zhonghua Lu, Dongcheng District  
When: December 6, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 30-380 yuan  
Tel: 6559 8306

#### Piano Recital by Michael Tsalka (Israel)

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 4 Zhonghua Lu, Dongcheng District  
When: December 18, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 30-380 yuan  
Tel: 6559 8306

#### Vienna Festival Philharmonic Orchestra New Year Concert

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng District  
When: December 28, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-1,280 yuan  
Tel: 5166 1145

#### Secret Garden Duo Concert 2009

Where: Great Hall of the People (west side of Tian'anmen Square), Xicheng District  
When: December 30, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-1,280 yuan  
Tel: 5128 6286

### Dance

#### Peony Pavilion – National Ballet of China (NBC) 50th Anniversary Series

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District  
When: December 8-9, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 120-600 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Prism

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District  
When: December 18, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-580 yuan  
Tel: 6551 8058

### Haze

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District  
When: December 19, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-580 yuan  
Tel: 6551 8058

### Opera

#### Goodbye, UFO – The "First 3D Acrobatic Musical"

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District  
When: December 17 – January 19, 2010, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-1,280 yuan  
Tel: 6831 6633

#### Monologues – Revel's World of Shakespeare

Where: Penghao Theater, 35 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District  
When: December 19-27, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 120 yuan  
Tel: 5129 0082

(By Jackie Zhang)

## Friday, November 13

### Exhibition

#### A Coca Cola Collection Exhibition

Where: B2 Capital Times Plaza, 88 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: Until November 14, daily, 9:30 am – 10 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6607 0767

### In Print

Where: Dialogue Space, 32 Baizhuan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until December 30, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6:30 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5876 9392

### Liu Wentao Solo Exhibition

Where: PIFO New Art

Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until December 3, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free  
Tel: 5978 9562

### Movie



#### Scent of a Woman

Where: Blend Coffee, Room 1354, 2/F Building 13,

Jianwai SOHO West, 39 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: November 20, 7 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5869 5030

### Nightlife

#### Cao Fang Live in Tour

Where: Star Live, 3/F Tango, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 8:30 pm  
Admission: 120 yuan  
Tel: 6402 5080

#### Winter Comes Early This Year

Where: Jiangjinjiu Bar, 2 Zhongku Hutong (few doors south of The Drum and Bell towers), Dongcheng District

When: 10 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 8605 0124

## Sunday, November 15

### Exhibition

#### Eyes of God – Shen Gui Solo Exhibition

Where: Beijing 9 Art Space, 3818 Warehouse, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 30, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 8459 9663

### China 2006

#### – Sun Jianchun Solo Exhibition

Where: Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 27, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5978 9530



#### Stolen Treasures from Modern China

Where: ShangART Gallery Beijing, 261 Caochangdi, Chaoyang District  
When: Until December 31, daily except Monday, 11 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6432 3202

### Movie

#### Babel

Where: No. 3 Club, 43 Beisanhuan Xi Lu, Haidian District  
When: 3 pm  
Admission: 20 yuan (includes a soft drink)  
Tel: 8211 5288

### Nightlife

#### Yuan Jing @ D-22

Where: D-22, 242 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District  
When: 9 am  
Admission: 30 yuan  
Tel: 6264 3177

## Saturday, November 14

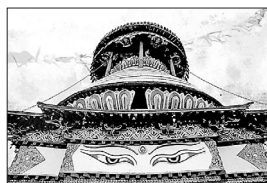
### Exhibition

#### Imperial City Impression – Old Peking Images in

### Western Prints

Where: Beijing World Art Museum, 9 Fuxing Lu, Haidian District

When: Until December 13, daily, 9 am – 5:30 pm  
Admission: 30 yuan  
Tel: 5980 2222



#### Trails, The Immortal Memory of Tibet – Li Xiaoke Solo Print Exhibition

Where: Kechuang Gal-

lery, Ritan Dong Lu Beikou, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 30, daily, 10 am – 7 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 8563 5298

### Nightlife

#### Ying Yang Twins Live Show

Where: Vics (inside north entrance of Workers' Stadium), Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: 10 pm  
Admission: 100 yuan  
Tel: 5293 0333

#### Zhou Yunshan and Feixu

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District  
When: 9:30 pm  
Admission: 70 yuan  
Tel: 6404 2711

### Movie

#### Fortune Teller

Where: 5/F Wenjin

Hotel, Tsinghua Science Park, 1 Zhongguancun Dong Lu, Haidian District

When: 4:30 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6252 5566

### Seven Pounds

Where: Room 2105A Zhongsheng Plaza, 2 Bei Fengwo Lu, Haidian District

When: 6:30 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5191 6192



"Imperial City Impression – Old Peking Images in Western Prints" at the Beijing World Art Museum



# Relieve joint pain with traditional exercise

By Venus Lee

Chronic arthritis can affect movement and your ability to manage everyday activities. It comes and goes throughout one's lifetime.

There are over 100 kinds of arthritis that can affect many different areas of the body. In addition to the joints, some forms of arthritis are associated with other tissues and organs. People of all ages, including children and young adults, can develop arthritis.

Although many people rely on painkillers and physiotherapy to cope with the pain, the improvements are often modest. However, specialists believe traditional exercises may offer better treatment.

## Tai chi shows promise

The martial art-turned-exercise tai chi can relieve the pain of arthritis in the knee, according to a new study.

The study compared two groups of people aged 55 or older. One group met twice weekly for tai chi classes and the other for general wellness instruction and stretching exercises. Both groups were asked to practice their exercises at home for 20 minutes a day.

At the end of 12 weeks, people in the tai chi group had a 75 percent decrease in their pain and a 72 percent improvement in their ability to manage everyday tasks such as climbing the stairs. People in the wellness and stretching group also reported more limited improvements.

The researchers used questionnaires to score people's symptoms, as well as their mental state, quality of life and other indicators of well being. Besides relieving pain and restoring physical function, the tai chi group also reported a decrease in depression and increase in overall health.

The researchers followed up with participants 24 and 48 weeks after the start of the study. Fewer than half of the people in each group continued their exercises at 48 weeks, and the disparity vanished by this point. However, the tai chi group still reported lower depression scores, suggesting long-lasting improvements.

The study was done by researchers with Tufts University in Boston and was published in the journal *Arthritis Care and Research*.

"Tai chi features slow, rhythmic movements designed to bring about mental relaxation and enhance balance, strength and flexibility. For people with osteoarthritis of the knee, this mind-body focus might improve their physical symptoms as well as help them cope better mentally," said Shang Xianmin, chief physician of Beijing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine Dongzhimen Hospital.

## Other treatments in Chinese medicine

"Inflammation of the joints causes suffering for many people," Shang said. "The ancient Chinese health system has been aiding people with arthritic joints for centuries." A combination of herbal formulas, dietary changes, acupuncture or acupressure and massage help many to cope with the symptoms.

### 1. Herbal formulas

In traditional Chinese medicine, arthritis is one of several possible patterns of impediment. Osteoarthritis normally flares up on cold, damp days, and is countered by medicines considered "warm and dry." Cinnamon, a common household spice, is found in many herbal formulas for arthritis. The ingredients are balanced to suit the individual.

Rheumatoid arthritis is more often a result of heat. Hot, swollen joints need a more neu-

tral formula. A traditional Chinese herbalist will spend a lot of time asking questions about overall health before concocting a prescription.

### 2. Diet therapy

While Western medicine focuses on diet to control weight gain, which puts pressure on arthritic joints, a traditional herbalist uses food to boost the effects of medicine. Invigorating foods such as turnips, which stimulate circulation, are often recommended. Other recommended foods for cold problems are pawpaws, coix seeds, black beans, green onions, ginger, peppers, finless eels and mutton — for heart problems, bean sprouts, red beans, lotus seeds, oyster mushrooms, white gourds, towel gourds, pearl barley and green beans.

### 3. Acupuncture and acupressure

Acupuncture is routinely used in traditional Chinese medicine for arthritis. Needles are placed at appropriate points along the meridians to move blood and chi. Other specific points may be needed depending on other aspects of the client's health. It takes several weeks of treatment to experience long term relief.

If you fear needles, acupressure is an alternative. Finger pressure over the same points, while not as powerful as acupuncture, will help. "One point, called Kunlun Mountain, is also known as the Aspirin Point. It is located within the area between the Achilles tendon and the ankle. Massaging the area between the two fingers may provide some relief from arthritis pain," she said.

## Preventing arthritis

Knowing the early symptoms for arthritis can be helpful. "Because arthritis does not have a cure the best thing you can do if you do not suffer from it yet is to try and prevent it," Shang said.

### 1. Eat a balanced diet

A poor diet weakens your body, immune system and bones, which in turn affect your joints. "A balanced diet will keep your body strong and stave off arthritis. The appropriate diet is something you will need to work on with your doctor," she said.

Studies have shown that obese people get arthritis because they apply a greater force on their joints, wearing them out over time.

A good arthritis prevention practice is to maintain an ideal weight in proportion to your height. Lose weight normally

by following a strict diet instead of crash dieting, which causes more long-term damage.

### 2. Exercises

There are a number of exercises that help you prevent arthritis by strengthening your body and ensuring your joints remain flexible: Pilates and yoga are two popular options. "It is best to practice these kinds of exercises in a class if you have never done them before," Shang said. "Even though these exercises are easy to practice and follow, they can also easily damage your body if you make any mistakes."

### 3. Check your family history.

If your parents and grandparents have arthritis, then you should start a prevention course as soon as possible. Vitamins and minerals can strengthen your body and help prevent the wear and tear of aging.

CFP Photo





# Enjoy a summer day in winter

## Exploring Zhuhai, Guangdong Province

By Huang Daohen

Wrapped in a heavy down coat and stumbling along Beijing's frozen streets, you might suddenly miss the summer heat and wish you could step out of the house in only a T-shirt. Here's a solution: head to the south.

Zhuhai, a coastal city in Guangdong Province, is an ideal choice, with its white-sand beaches, Macau-like architectural district and recreation of the Old Summer Palace during its glory days.

### A mini Macau

Angel carvings at St. Paul's Cathedral, early 20th century Portuguese art deco buildings, wavy black and white paint patterns on the pavement ... These could be scenes anywhere in Macau, yet they are in Zhuhai's Wanzai district.

Like twins separated at birth, Wanzai looks astonishingly similar to its neighboring city that became a trading post between the East and West in the mid-1500s. Gazing at old brick buildings, an elderly resident says, "I don't know when these were built, but they already have the feel of Macau. The only difference is there aren't any casinos here."

That doesn't mean a good game can't be found in Wanzai. In the warm afternoons, under the shade of a willow tree in tiny village courtyards, groups of old men shuffle mahjong chips and sip tea.

Indulging in seafood is the best way to revive the summer feeling. Next to St. Paul's Cathedral is a warehouse that sells fish and other sea products in bulk. A few blocks away, an outdoor wet market also offers a bounty of fresh seafood. During weekends, it teems with thousands of diners.

With the planned construction of new resorts and upmarket shops, Wanzai is expecting a tourism boom in the next few years. Along with it will come a population increase and heavier traffic.

### Beaches and island away from the crowds

Zhuhai's largest beach is in Jida district, near the city's mermaid statue landmark. The statue is supposed to represent the love between a beautiful fairy maiden and a young fisherman.

The main beach area is a few kilometers from downtown, so visitors will have to take a bus or a taxi, which costs less than 20 yuan. At the beach are people sunbathing, swimming, jet skiing or pedal-boating.

A short boat ride away is an island inhabited by fewer than five people and their pet dogs. Here, visitors can take a stroll along the water, swim or have picnic away from the crowds.

Huge rocks are everywhere on the island, so people have to be careful to walk under the space between huge boulders. A stroll around the island will take over an hour, and that is without exploring the interior peaks with temples and lookouts. It's quite a breathtaking and invigorating experience.

The island also has a lovely little temple to the sea gods, built into the rock formations by the beach in the island's rear part. Do not worry about staying too late, since the island caretaker can call a boat to ferry tourists back to the main island when they are finished exploring.

*Continued on page 21...*



Wanzai and Macau look like twins separated at birth.

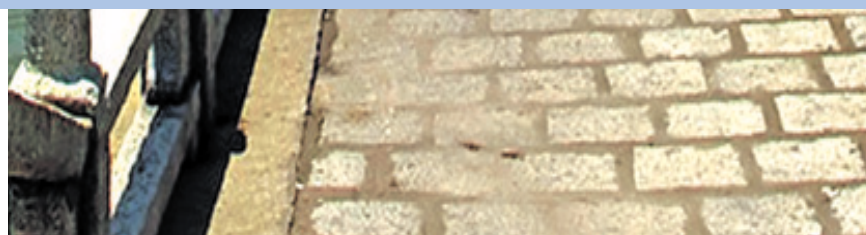


A view of a street in Wanzai



A short boat ride takes visitors to Zhuhai's neighboring island.

Photos provided by pbase.com



The Lovers' Road (Qinglu Lu) is a popular spot for sweethearts.



... continued from page 20



Zhuhai's New Summer Palace

**Old summer palace renewed**

Some people who visit Yuanmingyuan, or the Old Summer Palace in Beijing, might feel sad to see the imperial garden ruins. Zhuhai's Yuanmingxinyuan, or the New Summer Palace, gives it a chance at a second life.

The garden contains palaces and scenic sites modeled after Yuanmingyuan – structures which were built on a scale of 1-to-1. It has 18 of Yuanmingyuan's 40 original features, all surrounding a large lake.

Tourists can have their photo taken dressed in imperial Qing attire, ride a cable car to the top of Shilin Mountain or go boating on the lake.

A hike or a cable car ride up the hill offers a great view not only of the park but also of the city. The island in the middle of the lake has a Buddhist temple reachable by paddle boat. Visitors will be rewarded with respite from the noisy crowds, making it an ideal place to sit back and relax.

For those looking for insight into Chinese history, Yuanmingxinyuan may not fulfill their expectations.

To the west of the park lies an adjoining water park named Lost City, offering an opportunity to cool down after exploring the gardens in the hot Zhuhai sun. Several performances are staged throughout the day, including an exciting reenactment of an ancient naval battle.

All sites charge an entrance fee.

**Bar street and night food**

Most Chinese cities have a bar street, a local nightlife center. Visitors to Zhuhai will find a surprising number

of good bars and night markets given the city's relatively small population.

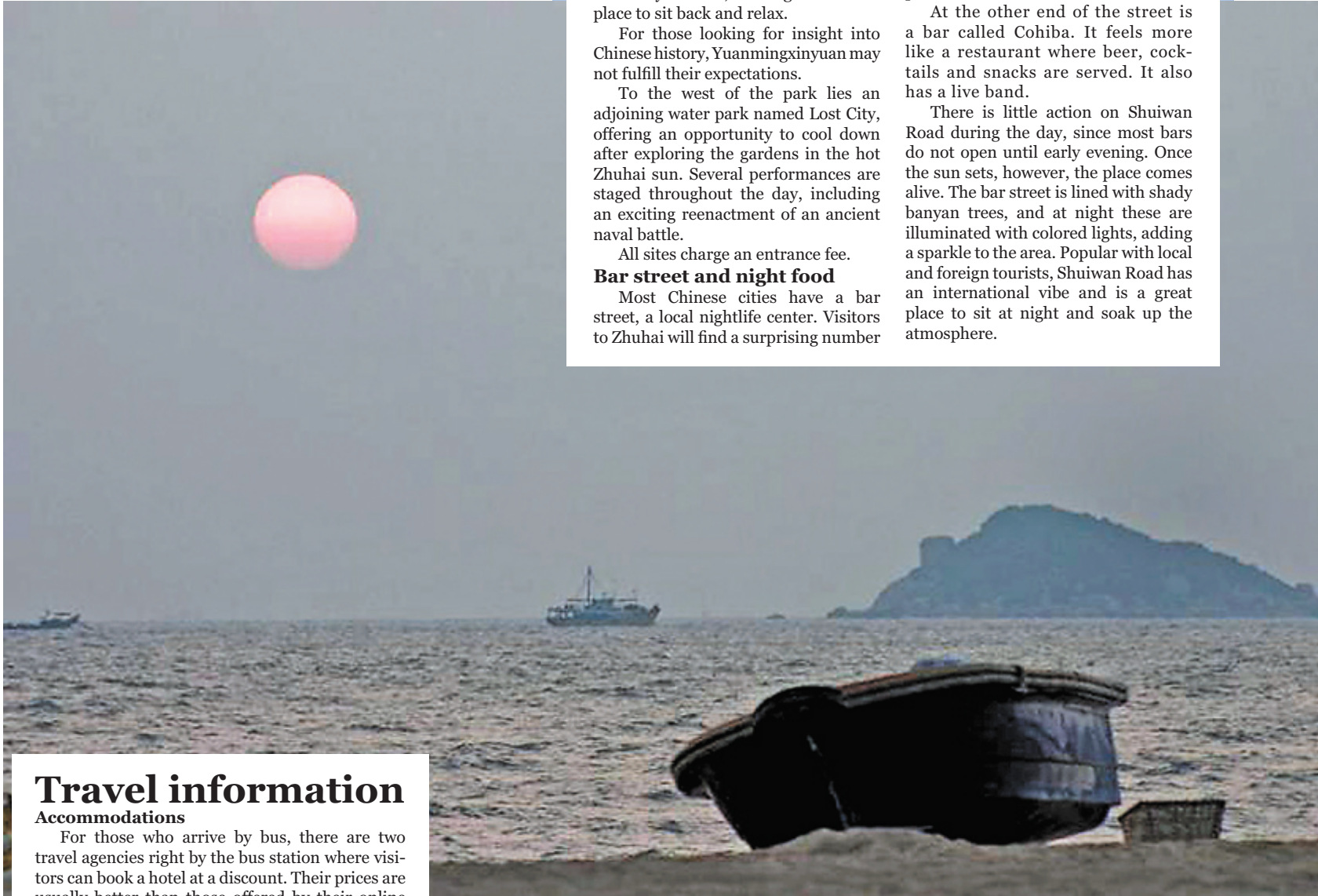
Unfortunately, these places are dotted fairly unevenly around town. Those who do not have much time on their hands should just head to the bar street on Shuiwan Road.

When the clock strikes 10 in the evening, outside the bars, tents start going up and dining tables begin laying out different snacks. The offerings include pork and lamb kebabs, fish balls, cabbage in soy sauce and fried dumplings. Food is quite cheap; most costs 1 to 2 yuan. The stalls usually stay open until 2 am.

The first bar on the street is Red Bar, Zhuhai's most popular and one of its most expensive. The club, which plays international music – mostly hip hop from countries such as France, Egypt, the US and Russia – is always packed. This is not the place for people who prefer rock or techno.

At the other end of the street is a bar called Cohiba. It feels more like a restaurant where beer, cocktails and snacks are served. It also has a live band.

There is little action on Shuiwan Road during the day, since most bars do not open until early evening. Once the sun sets, however, the place comes alive. The bar street is lined with shady banyan trees, and at night these are illuminated with colored lights, adding a sparkle to the area. Popular with local and foreign tourists, Shuiwan Road has an international vibe and is a great place to sit at night and soak up the atmosphere.



A stroll on the beach will surely revive the summer feeling.

Photos provided by pbase.com

**Travel information**

**Accommodations**

For those who arrive by bus, there are two travel agencies right by the bus station where visitors can book a hotel at a discount. Their prices are usually better than those offered by their online counterparts. There are many hotels along the coastal road; a four-star hotel usually costs 400 yuan a night.

**Getting arounds**

Public transportation within the city is very convenient, particularly to tourist spots.

A public bus is an economical and ideal choice to get around Zhuhai. Most buses do not have a conductor, so passengers should prepare loose change before boarding. The fare is usually 1 yuan per person.

There are roads extending to nearby towns, ports and the airport.

**Shopping**

There is a huge underground shopping center at the underground bus depot. The center also includes eateries, banks and cafes. This is a good place to spend the day if it is raining above ground.



The mermaid statue has become Zhuhai's landmark.

CFP Photo



Bar Street at night



## Dining

### Guest chef's chronicles

This November, Sofitel Wanda Beijing and Air France are hosting a fine cuisine event. Join us on this unique occasion to discover the savoir-faire of Michelin star-rated chef Jean-Pierre Jacob of Le Bateau Ivre restaurant, Courchevel.

Where: Le Pré Lenotre, Sofitel Wanda Beijing, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: November 23-29

Cost: 198 yuan (lunch); 488 yuan (dinner); 268 yuan (cooking class); 15 percent service fee

Tel: 8599 6666

### Private dining experience

Enjoy the new set menu at Bei in an exclusive private dining room. Parties of four or more in the sleek, wood-paneled private rooms will receive a complimentary bottle of house sake.

Where: Bei, The Opposite House, Building 1, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Thursday-Saturday, 5:30-10:30 pm

Cost: 358 yuan per person; 15 percent service fee

Tel: 6410 5230

### Saturday pasta madness

Trattoria la Gondola's menu is a cross section of Italian cuisine. Head Chef Paolo Ascani's signature pasta is 100 percent durum semolina. Paolo knows the secrets of matching pasta with sauce to create different but amazing flavors. You can try pasta with rich Bolognese tomato sauce, air-dried pasta with courgettes and rosemary sauce or square pasta with spicy tomato and mussel sauce.

Where: Trattoria La Gondola, Kempinski Hotel Beijing Lufthansa Center, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Saturdays, noon

Cost: 125 yuan per person; 15 percent service charge

Tel: 6465 3388 ext. 5707

### Sunday brunch

Grand Millennium offers a Sunday buffet brunch with delicacies including pan-fried goose liver, freshly shucked oysters, Indian curries, sushi and sashimi platters, Spanish paella, fresh seafood, Taiwanese street food a variety of desserts and Mumm Champagne.

Where: Grand Millennium Beijing, Fortune Plaza, 7 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

Cost: 298 yuan each; add 70 yuan for Martinis; 15 percent service charge

Tel: 8587 6888



### Taste Italy

Mario Cittadin, executive chef of Daccapo, presents the vibrant romance of Italy with a burst of new flavors like Italian seafood soup, Italian lamb leg, homemade fresh tagliatelle with a ragout of wild mushrooms and red beet risotto with cream of parmesan. All come matched with exquisite regional Italian wines.

Where: Regent Beijing hotel, 99 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District

When: Monday-Friday, noon - 2:30 pm, 6-10:30 pm

Cost: from 60 yuan (for a la carte); 15 percent service charge

Tel: 8522 1789

## Hot spring resorts



### Wendu Shuicheng

Located 20 kilometers north of Beijing, Wendu Shuicheng has five hot springs welling from depths of 3 kilometers or more at a steaming 79 °C. The daily mineral-rich water output exceeds 10,000 cubic meters. It can accommodate 1,200 persons in its 35 hot spring tubs, six private indoor spa pools and 40 massage rooms.

Where: Zhenggezhuang Cun, Beiqijia Zhen, Changping District

Tel: 8178 1111 or 8888

Web site: wendushuicheng.com

### Jiuhua Shanzhuang

Jiuhua hot spring originates 1,230 meters underground where water temperatures stay at 40 °C. It is rich in microelements such as strontium, lithium and metasilicic acid, which promote circulation and boost metabolism. The unstable microelements have an outstanding healing effect on many skin conditions.

Jiuhua has 21 baths and more than 40 pools in various sizes, including an Herbal Bath, Elephant Pool and Wine-tasting Pool.

Where: Xiaotangshan, Changping District

Tel: 6178 2288

Web site: jiuhua.com.cn

### Yujinxiang Hot Spring Garden Resort

Adjacent to Capital International Airport, Yujinxiang Hot Spring is accessible by private and public transportation. The water originates 3 kilometers below ground and stays heated to 65 °C.

Its indoor water park — Morui Water World — is the city's largest. It has 56 water sport activities for children, four sauna rooms and 21 spas, each with a unique twist.

Where: Jinzhan Yujinxiang Garden, Dongwei Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8433 7403 or 8104

Web site: bjyujinxiang.com

### Longmai Hot Spring Village

Longmai Hot Spring Village, located near the Great Wall and Ming Tombs, is an excellent choice for tourists. With its indoor and outdoor hot spring baths, guests can spend all day walking the Great Wall and return to Longmai to soak their muscles.

The interior is decorated in tropical style with several water amusements. Over 30 outdoor hot spring pools are scattered throughout its bamboo forests, and its hot spring corridor has a classical feel.

Where: Xiaotangshan, Changping District

Tel: 6179 4673 or 4525

Web site: longmai-wenquan.com

### Huashuiwan Magnetic Spa Resort

Huashuiwan Magnetic Spa Resort in Shunyi District is a unique natural magnetic hot spring. Its water is rich in minerals and popular for its purported curative qualities that heal the skin and relieve rheumatism, arthritis and heart disease. Water is pumped from 1,800 meters below ground at a spa-ready temperature to avoid losing essential ingredients. Its magnetic elements improve the physical properties of the water and are extremely healthy.

Where: 99 Beigao Lu, Gaoliying Zhen, Shunyi District

Tel: 6945 6668

Web site: huashuiwan.cn

### Tianlongyuan Hot Spring Resort

Tianlongyuan Hot Spring Resort has the city's biggest indoor public bathing area with an artificial beach, wave maker and medicinal spring-fed pools. The water originates 1,916 meters underground. The pools promote circulation, ease stress and detoxify the body. Massages are available in both public and private rooms.

Where: Dengzhuang Cun, Changping District

Tel: 8010 0088

Web site: bj-tly.com



### Fengshan Hot Spring Resort

Beijing Fengshan Hot Spring Resort's natural environment is the perfect place to relax. Its spring area features 72 unique pools. The water, pumped from 3,800 meters underground, is rich in microelements and minerals. It helps control refractory diseases, such as arthritis, nervous disorders and rheumatism.

Where: 10 Mangshan Lu, Changping District

Tel: 6071 1188 or 3847

Web site: fsdj.cn

## Event

### Wind down at the Wine Club

Hosted by the Hilton's trailblazing sommelier Julia Zhu, the Wine Club takes you on a virtual journey of the world's finest wine regions, with wine flights accompanied by expert commentary and a selection of delectable canapés. The event begins with a creative cocktail and is followed by a fun and informative tasting of five wines.

Where: One East, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Thursdays, 6:30-10 pm

Cost: 150 yuan per person; 15 percent service charge

Tel: 5865 5030

(By Sun Feng)



**Chinglish story**

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

# Sun chasers who follow stars

By Jin Zhu

I've been fascinated with celestial phenomena since I first visited a planetarium in primary school. I was particularly interested in eclipses and wished I could one day see one first-hand.

"Your wish can come true since solar and lunar eclipses occur regularly and can be seen with the naked eye," Mr. Liu, my science teacher at the time, told me. So many years have passed that I cannot remember his full name anymore, but his words I will not forget.

Last June 22, the longest total solar eclipse of the century occurred and some of the best seats on Earth were in China. I almost went crazy when I first heard news of the eclipse early this year and immediately began making inquiries how to be at the center of the "action."

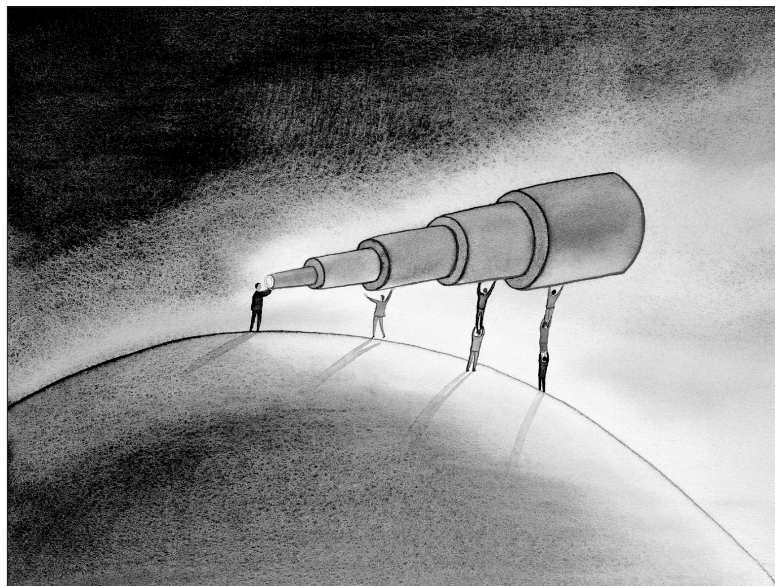
According to the China Meteorological Administration, there would be only eight observation points along the eclipse's path between Tibet and Shanghai. Unfortunately, Beijing was not included.

"If I were still a student, I would rush to one of those places, no questions asked," I said, complaining that with my work schedule, it was impossible to ask for a vacation leave.

Anna Wang, a friend who was also an English news reporter, told me to think positive. "It will be broadcast live on TV, so you'd still be able to see it," she said.

"It wouldn't be the same as seeing the actual thing in all its magnificence," I sighed. "The next longest one isn't till 2132. I'm really going to miss a great event."

Two days after the eclipse, Anna gave me a call. "Guess what!? At the last minute, the TV station sent me to Suzhou to report live on the eclipse. I



CFP Photo

don't want to rub it in, but if you want, we can meet tonight and I can tell you all about it," she said.

That evening, Anna and I, together with an American friend Andy, met for dinner.

I was jealous of Anna's experience, but her account of the eclipse made me feel as if I had been there. "Most hotels were fully booked on June 21 and 22. Some guests even made reservations as early as last year," she said, adding that she did not expect so many Chinese people to be interested in the phenomenon.

"I met some tourists from Beijing who decided to change their itinerary from Suzhou to Putuo Mountain in Zhejiang Province since the weather forecast said there would be clearer skies there, which is crucial to viewing an eclipse," Anna said. "I couldn't believe their dedication. They were

really sun-chasing fans."

"What do you mean by sun-chasing fans?" Andy cut in. "How do they chase the sun?"

"I meant they were astronomy lovers and thought it was worthwhile to spend on expensive air tickets and hotel rooms just to find the perfect spot to watch the eclipse," Anna said.

"Oh, we'd call them 'amateur stargazers,'" Andy said. "The word 'stargazer' is more often used in everyday speech than 'astronomer.' 'Professional stargazer' refers to astronomers, while 'amateur stargazer' refers to ordinary people – like the ones you mentioned – who are enthralled by astronomical phenomena."

I raised my voice when Andy finished speaking. "When the next eclipse occurs – professional or amateur stargazer – mark my words, I will be there," I said.

**Chinglish on the way**

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

# Make your face mini you

By Tiffany Tan

If it's not freezing outside, I'm guessing you can still find this sign on Lotus Lane in Houhai, beside glass-encased tiny sculptures of US President Barack Obama and basketball star Yao Ming.

The sign is written in broken English and sounds awful, yet it's endearingly funny and gets its point across – with great help from product samples, of course. Most of the humor probably comes from being reminded of Mini Me, the miniature clone of Dr. Evil in the *Austin Powers* comedy films.

The series of Chinese words



Photo by Tiffany Tan

*xianchang suxiang* mean "on the spot portrait sculpture," says my former boss/current landlady who is a Singaporean Chinese married to a Beijinger.

The stall owner says his products are a hit with tourists. And why wouldn't they be? The mini sculptures are perfect: for a couple of hundred yuan, you get a home or office decoration, a conversation piece and an immortalized version of you.

The Chinglish sign is also a good marketing device: without it, I would not have taken a second look at the stall and it wouldn't have landed on a newspaper column.

**Blacklist**

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

## 1. Authorities have stepped up to condemn the website.

**Professor Zhu Shida (ZS):** "To step up" figuratively means to increase. For instance, My salary was stepped up last week. It may also mean to raise by steps or degrees; make go faster or higher: To step up production of automobiles; to step up the pressure in a boiler. So you may see that "to step up" is all followed by noun forms. You will never say: to step up to do something; you will have to say: to step up doing something, or to step up something. For instance, They have stepped up improving the quality of their literacy campaign. So, for this sentence, it should be: Authorities have stepped up condemning the website.

**Native speaker Steven Sandor (SS):** "To step up" can be used the same as "to stand up." In this case the meaning is the same as willing to meet the challenge, as in the phrase, "The mayor asked officials to work overtime, and they stepped up to the task." It is an acceptable colloquial phrase to describe willingness or eagerness to achieve or overcome a challenge.

## 2. The chef does not want technology take precedence over the food's flavor.

**ZS:** The sentence should be: The chef does not want technology to take precedence over the food's flavor. So small an error as it is, it is not permissible. You have to groom yourself in such small details as this if you wish to be a good English writer. What is followed after the verb "to want" is its composite subject. The infinitive sign "to" is absolutely necessary. Please remember that there are only a limited number of verbs, such as "watch" "see" "help" "let," that can take the subject of an infinitive phrase without the sign "to." The sentence may also be rendered in such a way: The chef does not want to have technology to take precedence over the food's flavor.

**SS:** While his first example is absolutely correct, I have to disagree with the professor's second. In this case, the infinitive "to take" should not be used because technology taking precedence answers the question of what the chef does not want to have. "The chef does not want to have technology take precedence over the food's flavor," would be correct.

## 3. The Autumn Canton Fair was more upbeat than in the spring session.

**ZS:** This involves a sense of linguistic balance. The Canton Fair is held separately in spring and autumn; so it has a spring session and an autumn session. The two are compared as two independent objects. So, it is not necessary to say "in the spring session." The right way to say it should be: The Autumn Canton Fair was more upbeat than the spring session; or, The Canton Fair in autumn was more upbeat than in the spring session. Similarly, The congress is held for a longer session in spring than in autumn, or, The autumn session of the Congress is shorter than the spring session (is).

**SS:** The professor is correct. Another way this could be rewritten while maintaining the same order would be, "The Canton Fair was more upbeat this fall than it was in spring."



# Zombieland (2009)



## Movie of the week

For a new director's movie, *Zombieland* is brilliant and smart, one of the finest horror comedies since Edgar Wright's *Shaun of the Dead* in 2004.

It is a story of trust and isolation told in a funny way, with a nod to the gore expected of movies involving the undead.

Unlike many comedies in which the majority of the laughs appear in the trailer, *Zombieland* is filled with laugh-out-loud moments, thanks largely to the cast. Jesse Eisenberg is awesome as Columbus, portraying a sense of vulnerability and awkwardness without becoming too Michael Cera-like. Emma Stone and Abigail Breslin are also terrific as the sweet, yet tough Wichita and the more-mature-than-she-seems Little Rock.

## Synopsis

A cowardly shut-in named Columbus is forced to join seasoned zombie slayer Tallahassee to survive the zombie apocalypse. As Tallahassee sets out on a mission to find the last Twinkie on Earth, the duo meets up with Wichita and Little Rock, two young girls who have resorted to some rather unorthodox methods to survive amidst the chaos. As reluctant partners in the battle against the undead, all four begin to wonder if it might be better to take their chances alone.

## Scene 1

(Columbus talks about how the US has turned into a land of the walking dead.)

**Columbus (C):** Hello America. I wish I could tell you that this was still America. But I've come to realize that you can't have a country without people. And there are no people here. No my friends ... this is now "The United States Of Zombieland."

It's amazing how quickly thing can go from "bad" to "total shit-storm." And why am I alive, when everyone around me had turned to meat? It's because of my list of rules.

Rule No. 1 for surviving Zombieland ... "Cardio" (1). When the virus struck, for obvious reasons, the first ones to go were the fat-ties. Poor fat bastard!

As the infection spread and the chaos grew ... It wasn't enough just being fast on your feet. You had to get a gun, learn how to use it. Which leads me to my second rule "The Double Tap" (2). In those moments when you're not sure that the 'undead' are really dead-ed, don't get all stingy with your bullets. I mean one more clean shot to the head.

It wasn't long before the zombies began to get clever. When you are at your most vulnerable, somehow they could just smell it. Don't let them catch you with your pants down. Rule No. 3 "Beware of Bathrooms."

As zombies began to outnumber humans, that's when you have to cut all emotional ties. If the girls in your neighborhood are now f--ked up little monsters, oh, maybe it's time to stop driving *carpools* (3). You have to focus, on your own survival, which leads to Rule No. 4, pretty basic, "Fasten Your Seatbelts." It's gonna be a bumpy ride.

## Scene 2

(Columbus and Tallahassee step into a convenience store to find food.)

**Columbus voice-over:** Tallahassee had a sixth sense of humor when it came to zombies. Zombies aren't the most lovable crea-

tures but he really hated them. In fact the only thing he was more obsessed with than killing a zombie was finding a *Twinkie* (4). Something about the Twinkie reminded him about times not so long ago. When things were simple and not so psychotic.

It was like if he got a taste of that comforting childhood treat, the world would become innocent again and everything would return to normal.

**C:** Jesus Christ. You're a dangerous man. You're gonna risk our lives for a Twinkie?

**Tallahassee (T):** There're boxes of Twinkies in that grocery store (5). Not just any box of Twinkies. The last box of Twinkies that anyone will enjoy in the whole universe. Believe it or not, Twinkies have an expiration day. Someday very soon, life's little Twinkle gauge is gonna go empty. Time to nut up or shut up!



## Scene 3

(Together with Wichita and Little Rock, the crew arrives at Los Angeles and gets into the movie star Bill Murray's house. Wichita mistakes Murray for a Zombie and hits him.)

**T:** You're not a zombie, you're talking. You're OK.

**Bill Murray (M):** The hell I am.

**Wichita:** I'm sorry, I didn't know that it was you - you.

**T:** Are you ... What's with the, the get up (6)?

**M:** Oh, I do it to *blend in* (7), you know zombies don't *mess with* (8) other zombies. Buddy of mine, make-up guy, showed how to do this. Corn starch, you know some berries, a little liquid for the ladies. It suits my lifestyle. You know I like to get out and do stuff. Just played nine holes at the Riviera, just walked on, nobody there.

**T:** Goddamn it, Bill Murray! I had to get that out. I don't mean to gush. This is so surreal, I mean. You probably get this all the time, well, maybe not lately, but I'm such a huge fan of yours. I've seen everyone of your movies a million times. I even love your dramatic roles, everything. I love you Bill, I love you.

**M:** Thank you.



## Vocabulary

- to do cardio:** to exercise in a way that stimulates the heart
- tap:** to fire a killing gunshot at someone
- carpool:** to share a car for commuting
- Twinkie:** trademarked name of a golden sponge cake with cream filling
- grocery store:** a store the mainly sells food
- get up:** clothes or makeup
- blend in:** to fit into a crowd of which one is not a part
- mess with:** to bother or attack someone or something

(By Wang Yu)